THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,476 MONDAY JANUARY 15 1996

ELIZABETH'S STORY

- Our exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's authoritative biography of the Queen
- An acclaimed historian's intimate account of a wife, mother and monarch



PAGES 12 AND 13

- Part two: Palace life as Princess Margaret's marriage collapsed
- Spoilt and capricious, the shy Queen's little sister



11 PAGES OF TOP SPORT

Newcastle races away

- Ginola inspires his team to nine-point Premiership lead
  Reports and results: PAGES 21-31
- Cricket: England fail again PAGE 23

Modern commandments set out

Schools must teach new code of values

BY DAVID CHARTER AND JILL SHERMAN

SCHOOLS must adopt a modern ten commandments to give children a moral grounding and teach them the difference between right and wrong, the Government's chief curriculum adviser will say today.

The rules should be agreed nationally and set in stone to underpin everything taught in schools, Dr Nick Tate will tell a conference in London today.

His strategy to help schools to fill a void left by the diminishing authority of the Church and decline in traditional family values will be outlined as Labour develops its plans to improve children's behaviour.

These include using retired people to supervise troublesome children at "homework clubs", encouraging young adults to help out in schools, and making "citizen's service" a part of the school curriculum.

Dr Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, says that some schools already have statements of values for their pupils, but he believes the idea should be extended nationally.

"There is no doubt we have lost the robust intellectual basis for our moral life we once had," he said. "If values are universal things and not just the tastes and cultural preferences of particular groups, we may need some broader national agreement on those values that society is authorising schools to teach."

Once agreed, the code would be non-negotiable. His suggested commandments would cover:

- ☐ Honesty;
- ☐ Respect for others;
- ☐ Politeness;
- ☐ A sense of fair play;
- ☐ Forgiveness;
- ☐ Punctuality;
- ☐ Non-violent behaviour;
- ☐ Patience;
- ☐ Faithfulness;
- ☐ Self-discipline.

"People have been arguing about and formulating these things for 3,000 years or more," he said. "But this would have the symbolic significance of the country saying 'we are behind you schools' in trying to promote these things."

Dr Tate also believes that personal and social education, traditionally a weekly session to discuss morality, health and sexuality, should have a more formal aim. He says its main priorities should include "contributing to society's efforts to maintain structures centred on the two-parent family".

He said: "I don't think schools have always thought through how they are using this time. Without a structure it can degenerate into an incoherent mishmash. The objectives need to be much more prescriptive than they have been because there are certain values that we want to transmit."

Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, also spoke yesterday of his plans to help schools and the community work together to improve standards. Last month, he published a paper outlining home-school contracts where parents would be required to promise that their children would complete work given. Nowq he says that parents who failed to do so would be advised that a "mentor" would take over the responsibility.

Such mentors were likely to be retired people who would act as volunteers supervising children in "homework clubs". These would probably be in schools, and would be designed to help children who do not have the space or privacy to do their homework at home.

He is also exploring other ideas to improve discipline in schools and broaden skills. He is keen on encouraging both unemployed youths and students in higher and further education to help out in schools and he is looking at a scheme developed by the Community Service Volunteers where university students spend half a day a week helping secondary school children with projects or tasks in subjects of which they have some knowledge.



Johanne Masheder and the Thai monk who police say admitted killing her in caves near his temple after stealing her money to buy drugs

Drugged monk 'killed British tourist'

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN KANCHANABURI, THAILAND
RICHARD DUCE

A BUDDHIST monk murdered the missing British lawyer Johanne Masheder during a robbery close to the site of the Bridge on the River Kwai, Thai police said yesterday.

The monk, a convicted rapist, is said to have confessed to killing Miss Masheder, 23, while high on drugs. Her body was found in a ravine near a Buddhist temple in Kanchanburi, west of Bangkok.

Miss Masheder, of Wincle, Cheshire, who was on a three month round-the-world trip, was last seen alive in early December. Her parents went to Thailand ten days after her last telephone call to them on December 7 and yesterday Mr Masheder identified his daughter's body.

Police named the monk as Phra Yodchart Suaphoo, 21, who admitted pushing Miss Masheder down a ravine. The monk, an amphetamine addict, had previously spent two years in jail for rape.

Tests showed that Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York University who was about to start work as a trainee solicitor, had been raped but Suaphoo denied this. Three other monks were questioned but later released.

The breakthough in the search for Miss Masheder came when a local teacher recalled meeting her on December 9 and introducing her to a £5-a-night guesthouse overlooking the River Kwai.

Next day Miss Masheder cycled three miles to the Allied War Cemetery at Chongkai and then to the Buddhist Temple of Tham Kaopoon to see its famous caves.

At the entrance she met Suaphoo who told police: "I got up and offered to show her around. She was alone. A very beautiful girl. I took her round the first cave and then offered to show her the other. We were above a cave looking down and I suddenly said 'Look there'. She looked down and I pushed her grabbing her bag and camera. She fell 30 feet. The cave was just full of rubbish. I pushed her to the side so she could not be seen from above and then climbed out. She had very little, just 500 Baht (£12) and a camera."

Parents' anguish, page 3

War of nerves over hostages

The war of nerves over Chechen rebels' seizure of hostages in Southern Russia entered its sixth day with the Russians putting on a fresh show of armed force. But after two deadlines for the release of the hostages had expired, the Chechens were given a further night to meet Moscow's conditions.

Hundreds of Russian troops armed with anti-tank rockets, and armoured personnel carriers, were moved closer to the village of Pervomaiskoye near the Dagestan border with Chechenia, where the rebels are holed up with more than 100 hostages ..... Page 10

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Long delays in test dates drive learners to despair

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRRESPONDENT

A STAMPEDE of tens of thousands of learner drivers desperate to take their tests before the summer has been triggered by the Government's announcement that they will have to sit a written examination from July 1.

Driving schools in major cities such as London, Birmingham and Newcastle have reported chaos as the Driving Standards Agency, which runs the tests, has struggled to cope with the massive surge in applications.

BSM, the biggest driving school in the world, is threatening to sue the agency because it is has been so angered by the number of £28.50 tests being cancelled at short notice as a result of the shortage of examiners. Average waiting times for tests have risen from about six weeks to two or three months in the worst affected areas. The longest reported delay is four months.

A spokeswoman for the agency, which lost its Charter Mark last year because of the lengthening waiting lists, said the backlog of unprocessed applications had grown by 30,000 to 245,000 over the year to last November.

The situation has been exacerbated by a reduction in full-time examiners, which has forced the agency to train 160 new part-time replacements, and a teething problem with a high-tech telephone enquiry system.

Michael Moylan, the manager of the Baker Street branch of BSM, in central London, said: "We are almost at the stage where we can hardly conduct our business, we are being tortured here."

Mr Moylan said learner drivers were being reduced to tears by the delays, often taking it out on their instructors. The agency had also frequently lost application forms, cashed test fees when no dates had been set and had made it almost impossible for candidates to get through on the telephone, he said.

"Of all the times to change the phone numbers, why did they wait until the eve of the announcement of the written test to do it? We knew there would be an increase in business, why didn't they? Whoever is making the policy decisions must have his judgment questioned."

Nusrat Arif, 19, a student from Brent, in north London, said she had twice turned up the test centre in Mill Hill, only to be told that her appointment had been cancelled at the last minute.

INSIDE



Matthew Parris on Thatcher and a tramp
Page 16

Melvyn Bragg on his out-of-body experiences
Page 15

William Rees-Mogg in praise of ignorance
Page 16

PLUS

Win a £22,995 Honda Shuttle
Details, page 10

Take a friend to the theatre for 30p
Details, page 35

Lottery superdraw to top up prizes

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAMELOT is to introduce special weekly "superdraws" in the next six months, with prizes boosted by National Lottery reserve funds.

The scheme will mean that instead of the typical weekly prize pool of £12 million, Camelot will be able to guarantee a much bigger payout, expected to be in the region of £20 million to £25 million.

Provision for superdraws was written into Camelot's licence to give the company the flexibility to boost the jackpot and introduce more variety and excitement into the game. So far, the unusually high number of rollover weeks — when the jackpot is carried over for up to three draws — have meant that the company has not had to use the gimmick.

However, Camelot's director of communications said the number of rollovers was expected to decline sharply in the next six to 12 months.

"There was no jackpot winner in last Saturday's draw meaning that we have yet another rollover this week, the third in four weeks," David Rigg said. "This is a statistical freak. In fact the experience of lotteries all over the world is that the number of rollovers decline the longer the game has been running."

When a lottery is new, players tend to choose "lucky numbers" based on birthdays and anniversaries. This means that a disproportionately high number of combinations chosen focus on low numbers. As a result, only a small proportion of the possible 14 million lottery combinations are chosen in any one week. This proportion is called

Continued on page 2, col 3

Lottery numbers, page 20

Chaotic result for Rugby

A special meeting in Birmingham yesterday rejected the Rugby Football Union's response to the introduction of the new open game and the assembly broke up in chaos. The RFU's response to the declaration by the International Rugby Football Board was firmly defeated as was the RFU's nominee as chairman of the executive committee ..... Page 22

Pensions plea

Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, has called on all parties who were involved in the £4 billion personal pensions misselling scandal to work together to compensate up to one million victims such as nurses, police officers and local authority employees ..... Page 40

Internet Times

The Internet edition of *The Times* is now available on http://www.the-times.co.uk

TV & RADIO 38, 39	LETTERS 17	ARTS 32, 33	SPORT 21-31
WEATHER 20	OBITUARIES 19	CHESS & BRIDGE 36	ELIZABETH'S STORY 12, 13
CROSSWORDS 20, 40	WILLIAM REES-MOGG 16	COURT & SOCIAL 18	MIND AND MATTER 14

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

ELIZABETH AND HER CHILDREN

Part three of our serialisation of Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen

PLUS: See how your players are performing in our £50,000 Interactive Team Football

WEDNESDAY

ESSENTIAL FASHION

What the well dressed boss is wearing

PLUS: Win a Hewlett Packard computer notebook, in *Interface*

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK

Geoff Brown on Nicolas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas*

PLUS: Health, the Books pages, and John Bryant on sport

FRIDAY

POP

David Sinclair on Frank Black, cult hero of college rock

PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY

TRAVEL OFFER

Two Virgin Atlantic flights for the price of one

PLUS: The **Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015** for young Times readers and **Vision**, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A £22,995 HONDA SHUTTLE

Livingstone exposes Labour 'delusions'

'Union barons will ruin Blair's dream of power'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KEN LIVINGSTONE predicted a resurgence of trade union power under a future Labour government yesterday as he undermined efforts by Tony Blair to rebut Tory criticism of his big idea of a "stakeholder economy".

The left-wing Labour MP for Brent East contradicted his leader's insistence that the Conservatives were talking "rubbish" by claiming that his vision meant a fresh lease of life for union barons.

Mr Livingstone said on GMTV's *Sunday Programme* that Mr Blair's strategy was to "reassure Conservative Britain" and not alienate a single floating voter. But the reality would be very different.

The Left was stronger than it had been for years with all the big unions agreed on the need to defend the welfare state and secure a minimum wage and a fairer tax system. Mr Livingstone said. "What happens in Parliament won't be as important as what's happening outside . . .

"If the trade unions are saying we aren't prepared to have cuts in the welfare state, there is absolutely nothing a Labour government can do about it. The Tories cannot govern without the support of industry and commerce. We cannot govern without the support of the unions."

Mr Blair strongly rejected claims that his stakeholder plan meant a return to the beer and sandwiches at 10 Downing Street of the 1970s. He said that New Labour was not a "marketing gimmick" and that the radical changes he had made to his party's constitution and policies would not be reversed in power.

"It is changed in opposition and it will remain changed in government and nobody should be in any doubt about that at all," Mr Blair said on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost*. Arthur Scargill's decision to leave the Labour Party and set up the Socialist Labour Party was a graphic demonstration of the far-reaching nature of these changes, he added.

Mr Blair also rejected Mr Livingstone's accusation that his idea of a stakeholder economy, unveiled in his speech in Singapore last week, was a meaningless phrase. The Labour leader said it was a "unifying theme", encapsulating Labour's plans to give everyone a stake in the country's economic future. It meant, for instance, retraining the one million long-term jobless, making sure that the education system was not devoted to an elite of 20-30 per cent of children, moving people off welfare into work, making available money to help people start their own businesses, and encouraging companies to treat their employees as "partners" not cogs in a wheel.

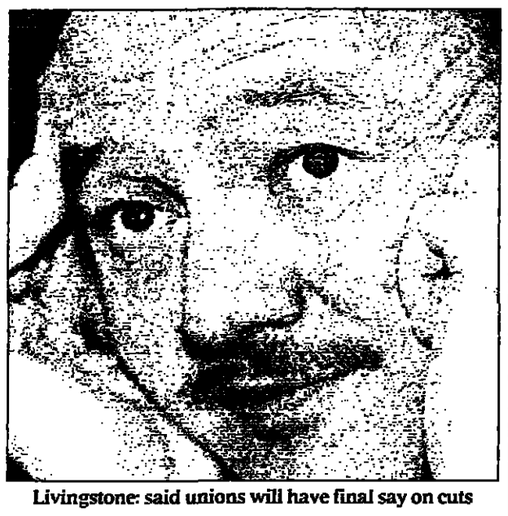
Nor was it about tying up companies in more red tape. "It is . . . the economic side of the One Nation society and it distinguishes us from the Conservatives that have done very well for the top few per cent in society.

"I am interested in encouraging a different corporate ethos that is about investing in people, treating them fairly, ensuring that they feel they have a stake in the enterprise because that is what makes a successful company."

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, accused Mr Blair of planning to go further than Michael Foot in his days as Employment Secretary in the last Labour government in giving powers to the unions.

Dr Mawhinney said Labour was committed to giving strikers a legal right to have their jobs back and that it would force employers to recognize unions if the proposal was supported by 51 per cent of the workforce. It would also impose new burdens on industry by signing the European social chapter and by introducing a minimum wage.

Dr Mawhinney said of Mr Blair: "Here was a man trying to create one impression in a nice interview in a comfortable studio with David Frost but saying by saying things that were flatly contradictory to what he was previously saying."



Livingstone: said unions will have final say on cuts

Peter Riddell, page 16
Letters, page 17

Left-wing MPs scorn Scargill's 'Gang of One'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

ARTHUR SCARGILL accused Tony Blair of embracing the capitalist "devil" yesterday as he announced that he would be resigning from the Labour Party in a few days to carry on the class war under the banner of his breakaway party.

Mr Scargill, the President of the National Union of Mineworkers, was speaking after a meeting on Saturday at a central London hotel had decided to set up the Socialist Labour Party from May 1. Its creed will be nationalisation, unilateral nuclear disarmament, full employment and restoration of trade union rights. Campaigning against the Newbury bypass and against the veal trade were added to the shopping list by Mr Scargill yesterday.

About 40 people attended the gathering, an event that Mr Scargill yesterday likened to the birth of the Labour Party under Keir Hardie.

The NUM chief's former comrades were unimpressed, with Ken Livingstone, the left-wing Labour MP for Brent South, dismissing the founding fathers of the Socialist Labour Party as including a "small group of nutters".

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said: "The SDP never succeeded. The gang of one won't even get off the ground."

Mr Livingstone also pointed out that, other than Mr Scargill, no big names were associated with the new party. Mr Scargill, who hopes to recruit 5,000 members in 18 months, admitted yesterday that he did not not expect any Labour MPs to defect.

The new party may stand in next month's by-election in the Labour-held seat of Hemsworth in Yorkshire.

Mr Scargill said of Mr Blair and his supporters: "What they've done collectively — to destroy socialism from the agenda of Labour Party politics — [is] something that Lady Thatcher found impossible to do when she tried to wipe socialism of the agenda of British politics."

Renewed splits emerged as the party was being formed. Scottish left-wingers failed to reach an agreement which could have resulted in up to 2,000 Scots joining Mr Scargill's party. Three members of the Militant group appeared to walk out before the end of the meeting. Tommy Sheridan, a Scottish Militant councillor, would not comment before leaving.

It is thought that yet another new left-wing party will be launched in Glasgow next month.

Mr Scargill made clear that Socialist Labour members would not be able to join or support other political groups.



Scargill: will set up new party on May 1

Mawhinney denies plot to oust Major

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, sought yesterday to end speculation about a challenge to John Major's leadership. "It's not in the real world," Dr Mawhinney said on London Weekend Television's *Crosstalk*. "There isn't going to be a [leadership] election in November."

His assertion came after senior Tories confirmed that the executive of the 1922 Committee of the party's backbenchers was resisting pressure from the Prime Minister to change the leadership election rules to safeguard him against another challenge before the general election.

MPs said that the 18-strong executive was unlikely to resolve the issue in this Parliament. Leading figures said that the executive had been urged by backbenchers to leave intact the possibility that, under current rules, 33 MPs could trigger a contest in November. However, few MPs believe that the parliamentary party would risk a contest within six months of the deadline for a general election.

Vaccine supply runs out

Extra supplies of the meningitis vaccine will arrive in Retford, Nottinghamshire, later this week after children swamped an innoculation centre seeking protection from the virus that killed a teenager last Friday. All 7,000 doses allocated by the department of health were used after the death of Christopher Vernon, 17. Doctors have advised teenagers to avoid kissing, which is one way the rare, type C strain of the disease can be passed on.

Hostage experts fly out

Three officers from Scotland Yard's International and Organised Crime Branch, all experts in hostage negotiation, have gone to Indonesia to help to secure the release of four Britons captured by anti-government rebels, the Foreign Office said yesterday. The four were seized with three other Europeans and 17 Indonesians by a rebel group seeking independence for Indonesia's Irian Jaya province. Nine hostages, all locals, have since been released.

Child feared abducted

A five-year-old girl is thought to have been abducted from her bedroom during the night. Rosemary McCann was last seen at 12.20am yesterday. When her mother, Josephine, 26, checked again at 2am she was gone. A motorist spotted a man and girl walking near the house in Oldham, Greater Manchester, and gave them a lift. Police arrested a boyfriend of Mrs McCann last night but said the child's whereabouts were still not known.

Woman strangled

Police were checking possible links with unsolved killings yesterday after a young woman was found strangled and dumped in a lay-by the A666 at Belmont, on the moors above Darwen, Lancashire. She was wearing only her underwear. Forces in the North of England and the Midlands are hunting the killers of at least a dozen young women, most of them were strangled and dumped in spots close to the motorway network.

BA loses route fight

Britain's smallest airline, which has one aircraft, has won a dispute with British Airways. The Civil Aviation Authority has ruled that BA must limit flights to Beirut from Heathrow to two a week, while British Mediterranean can have up to one a day if Lebanese authorities agree. British Mediterranean's managing director, Des Hetherington, is a former BA executive. A non-executive director, David Burnside, was BA's public affairs director.

Ken Dodd to play Yorick

Ken Dodd, the veteran comedian, said he was "tickled pink" yesterday after winning the role of Yorick in Kenneth Branagh's production of *Hamlet*. Yorick, who usually appears as just a skull, has been recreated for the film by Branagh, who will play the lead role. Dodd will play alongside Robin Williams, Gerard Depardieu, Charlton Heston, Jack Lemmon and Julie Christie when filming begins later this month.

Lottery boost

Continued from page 1

the "cover" and was running at 40-60 per cent during the National Lottery's early days.

As players experiment with different combinations — and as more people play — the "cover" increases. It is now running at between 75 and 90 per cent and the introduction in March of Camelot's Lucky Dip system, by which a computer will randomly select people's lottery numbers, is expected to take the cover close to 100 per cent.

Mr Rigg said that he therefore expected roll-overs to decline and that Camelot was likely to seek permission from the Lottery regulator, Oflot, to hold a Superdraw.

Money for that will come from Camelot's reserve prize fund which now stands at around £100 million. The fund has been building up since the Lottery was launched as Camelot has deliberately held back a small percentage of prize money each week. It is supposed to put 50.6p of every £1 from ticket sales into the weekly prize pool, but at the moment the level is understood to be running at 48.6p.

Although Camelot has to hand over the surplus money to the "good causes" fund, or put it into occasional Superdraw prize pools, it is allowed to keep the interest.

A number of MPs have expressed surprise at this arrangement, and it is likely to be examined by the Commons National Heritage Select Committee when it holds an inquiry into the Lottery.

Gerald Kaufman, the committee's Labour chairman, said yesterday that the scope of the investigation had not been decided, but it is expected to cover the jackpot, the way the cash is shared out among the good causes, and Camelot's profits.

Lottery numbers, page 20

Bypass protesters eligible for Giros

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

WHITEHALL officials have told ministers that they cannot stop benefit payments to protesters living in tree houses and make-shift shelters in the Newbury bypass battle.

A team from the Benefits Agency has visited the sites with employment officials and declared that the protesters meet the conditions of eligibility for benefits.

The decision has caused frustration at the Department of Transport, which faces increased costs in building the bypass because of delays caused by the protests.

At the weekend an unnamed Transport Department official called for benefits to be withdrawn, saying that the protesters were clearly not available for work. Although the Highways Agency, which is building the bypass, has hired a detective agency to identify protesters, no evidence has been produced of benefit fraud. The Post Office has recognised the make-shift camps as permanent addresses for the delivery of mail.

Protesters yesterday planted more than 100 trees on a site cleared by contractors last week. A number of trees were felled on the Tot Hill site at the southern section of the proposed road on Wednesday and that area was replanted.

Police and the Highways Agency both said they were powerless to stop the planting. There was no sign of the contractors at the site and security guards had been given the weekend off.

'Lost' sonnet starts a war of words

BY QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND RUSSELL JENKINS

AN American professor, who has used computer technology to attribute an early 17th century elegy to William Shakespeare, was subjected to a cold blast of academic scepticism yesterday.

Shakespeare scholars, squaring up for a bruising literary battle, remain to be convinced that the 578-line poem mourning the death of a young man who mixed with Shakespeare's entourage in Oxford was written by the bard. The manuscript, mildly homosexual in tone and signed WS, was uncovered by Professor Donald Foster, an English don at Vassar College in New York State, in a catalogue of the Jacobean stationer Thomas Thorpe, who published Shakespeare's sonnets. It turned up in a privately published edition in Balliol College library.

Prof Foster has subjected the work to computer analysis and now believes he has the kind of compelling evidence that will prove his case.

Scholars closer to Shakespeare's home are less impressed. They claim that the rhyming couplets are simply not good enough to come from the Bard's pen. Professor Stanley Wells, director of the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-on-Avon, said: "The poem is rather bland. I would take a lot of convincing."

The computer programme compared the playwright's vocabulary to the words of *A Funerall Elegie*, a little-noticed, 21-page poem kept at Oxford's Bodleian Library.

Mr Foster, who presented his thesis at a meeting of scholars in Chicago, first read the elegy 13 years ago and was struck by its Shakespearean character. Wary of the scepticism that greets any Shakespearean "discovery", not least if it comes from America, he developed a computer database of words that appear fewer than 13 times in the Shakespearean canon. The computer was also programmed to note the vocabulary of late Shakespearean plays such as *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest* and *Henry VIII*, and of other writers' work of the period. Several rare Shakespearean words such as "unprevailing", "offenceless" and "spleenful" matched the language of the 1612 elegy.

Mr Foster said: "The computer provides an accurate and objective measure, and the evidence is insurmountable that Shakespeare did write the poem."

Professor Peter Levi, of Oxford University, said "such analysis is almost always complete rubbish".



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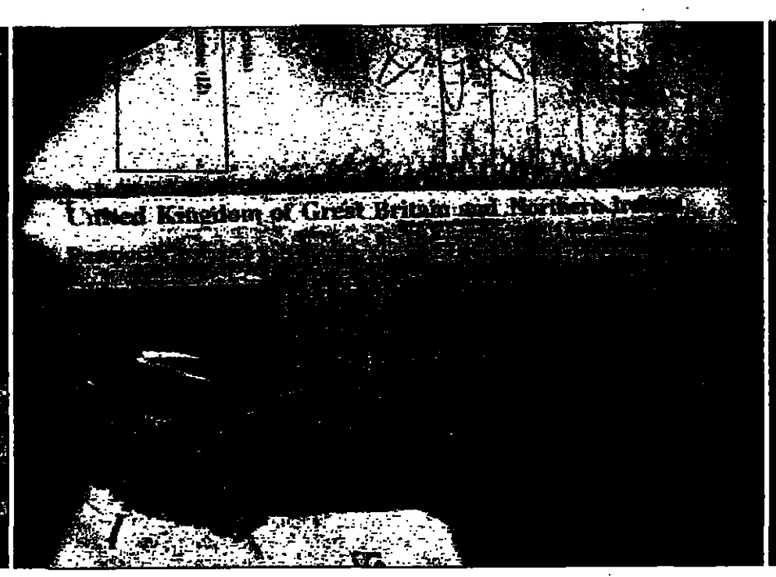
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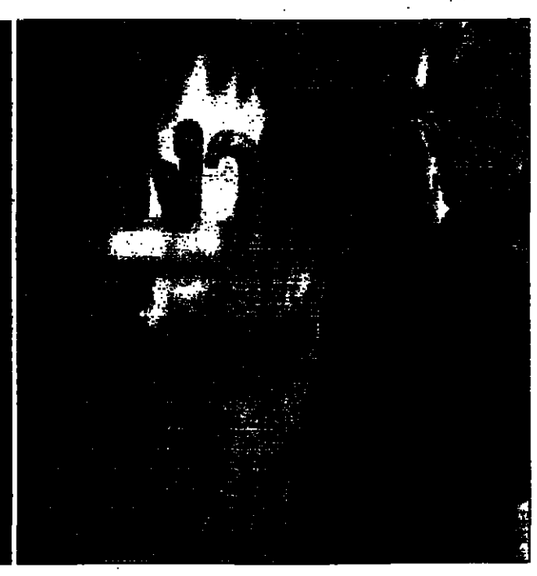
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One of the last pictures of Johanne, taken on an elephant trek in northern Thailand. The burnt remains of her passport, found near her body and, right, Stuart Masheder, who flew to Thailand to join the search for his daughter

Couple's hunt for devoted daughter ends in heartache

BY RICHARD DUCE

AN AGONISING two-week search by the parents of Johanne Masheder for their lost daughter ended yesterday with the discovery of her body near a Buddhist temple in Thailand. Stuart and Jackie Masheder had kept up their hopes that Johanne had simply decided to extend her three-month round the world travel plans that had aleady taken her to Fiji, New Zealand and Canada.

Realistically, they knew that something untoward must have happened to a devoted daughter who was looking forward to a legal career and would not intentionally miss the chance to spend Christmas at home with her family in Cheshire. Mr Masheder, the business manager of a chemical company, and his wife became alarmed after last hearing from their daughter on December 7 in a call from Chiang Mai in northern Thailand where she was elephant trekking. Rather than wait for news, they flew to Thailand to help the search.

Mrs Masheder said soon after arriving: "I'm happier here. At least I feel I can do something." The couple believed their daughter to be heading for the island of Ko Samui, a known haunt of backpackers. Mr Masheder, 49, was an incongruous figure on the island beaches, where, armed with a photograph of his eldest daughter he tackled people for information. He hired private investigators and placed adverts in newspapers.

However Miss Masheder at first appeared to have changed her plans by buying a travel ticket for the island of Ko Samet, much closer to Bangkok. A sighting of her on the island on December 17 now seems to be mistaken. It now appears that she made straight for Kanchanaburi from Bangkok where she was seen on December 9th.

She had left her rucksack in the storage room of a travel agency in Bangkok planning to collect it for her scheduled flight home on December 21. Photographs of Miss Masheder's trip to northern Thailand have been developed from two rolls of film in the bag. There were fleeting hopes they could help police trace her whereabouts but they have now become Mr and Mrs Masheder's final pictures of their daughter.

After Christmas with her family Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York university, had planned to start work with the London firm of Cameron Markby Hewitt on December 28. The likelihood is that some two weeks before then, the independent young woman was killed by the Buddhist monk who has confessed to her murder.

Miss Masheder was one of hundreds of thousands of young Britons who seek adventure in exotic corners of the globe.One in seven students takes time off or a "gap year"



to travel to exotic places either before or after their University course and Thailand is generally considered to be one of the safer destinations for backpackers. David Creffield, editor of *Overseas Jobs Express*, said yesterday: "I don't believe that it is more dangerous to go abroad nowadays, but there are more young people travelling every year, and they are searching out more remote destinations. These youngsters want to go somewhere where no-one else goes, so they are among the first Westerners into former war zones or newly-opened tribal areas. They are idealistic and full of good feelings towards their fellow man. They don't invest enough thought and preparation in their own safety."

It is not uncommon on Thailand for convicted criminals to become monks because it is often the only way they can stay alive. In a land where Buddhist monks are revered, they live off the charity of others. Many monks can be seen with full body tattoos — a sign of their previous lives in Thai Mafia gangs. Drug addicts also join the monkhood in an effort to "dry out". One temple in northern Thailand even specialises in treating heroin addicts.

Police Colonel Vorathep Mathwaj, Head of the Investigation Division of the Thai Immigration Police said: "We are pleased to have caught Jo's killer so quickly, but I cannot say I am happy with the result. We had hoped to find the girl alive. This does not look good for Thailand and our monkhood."

Stephen Geers of Trailfinders, the London-based travel agency, said: "We will still recommend Thailand to people. After all, will the French be telling people not to come to Britain because of what happened to Celine Figard?"

Champion is missing, presumed dognapped

BY MICHAEL KALLENBACH AND RUSSELL JENKINS

A CHAMPION pedigree dog worth £30,000 has vanished shortly before it was due to compete for a top prize at Cruft's.

Isaac, a prize-winning rare German wire-haired pointer, disappeared along with Spice, a less valuable 14-month-old bitch, at the end of their regular daily walk.

They are feared to have been taken by thieves who knew the dogs were rare, or by jealous rivals who wanted to knock out a tough competitor at the start of a new showing season.

Their disappearance nearly two weeks ago has mystified police, shocked other breeders around the country and left the owner distraught.

Maxine O'Conner, of Mossbank, St Helen's, on Merseyside, has offered a £500 reward to be reunited with the two dogs she last saw chasing along a dirt track on desolate farm land on Tuesday, January 2, as she walked back to her parked car.

Mrs O'Conner, 36, a professional breeder, had briefly turned away to put two other



Maxine yesterday with two of Isaac's puppies

pointers in her car at Carr Mill dam, Mossbank. She whistled but Isaac and Spice did not answer the call.

At the same time she saw a blue transit van disappearing at speed up the track, and is now convinced that the dogs had been bundled into the back. Isaac, now 20 months old, gained his champion title last November at the Gundog Breeds of Scotland show. Puppies sired by Isaac would be highly sought after in the small, enclosed world of pointer dog breeding. German wire-haired pointers are unusual breeds in this country with only 60 in the show ring.

The German pointer is highly valued as a gun dog. Isaac — kennel name Femke's Footsteps Isaac at Kimmax — has a special distinction. When he arrived from Holland at a price of £5,000, he was the first dog to enter Britain last year under the new Ministry of Agriculture regulations allowing freer movement for dogs used for breeding within the EU. They are exempt from the six-month quarantine.

Mrs O'Connor said: "I did not expect my dogs to be whisked from under my nose. It would have been understandable if the thieves had broken into my car or house, but this is terrible."

She has seven others of the same breed, and takes them to the same spot every day at the same time. "One minute the dogs were there, and the next they were gone. I saw a blue van drive off. I whistled to the dogs, but there were no sign of them. These dogs do not just disappear like this."

Mrs O'Connor and her husband, Phil, combed the area and discovered fresh paw marks at the end of a lane next to large tyre marks. "It was frosty weather and then it began to thaw, so I was able to recognise the dog paws — one female, one male," she said.

"I am one hundred per cent convinced that they were in that van. They could not just disappear into thin air. Why they were in that van, God only knows. Shergar disappeared forever, didn't he?"

Detective Inspector Jon Dawson of St Helen's police, said: "These dogs are pedigrees, but without their official pedigree papers they are not worth anything."



Isaac: the champion dog and a less valuable bitch disappeared during a daily walk in the country

Warning over Lego leaves rural vicar a shade angry

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A VICAR has attacked a social services inspector's demand that he provide black dolls and Lego figures at a children's club he runs.

The Rev Michael Foster, vicar of Holy Jesus Church, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire, was amazed when the inspector insisted toys at the after-school club should "reflect the black population".

"This is dabbling with social engineering," Mr Foster said. "Our Lego characters are yellow so, if anything, they reflect the Sino-Japanese community. There was no insistence that we buy white Lego characters — only black ones. How nitpicking are we going to get?" In a letter after the six-monthly inspection, the vicar was told his toys "did reflect the white population, but did in no way reflect the black population".

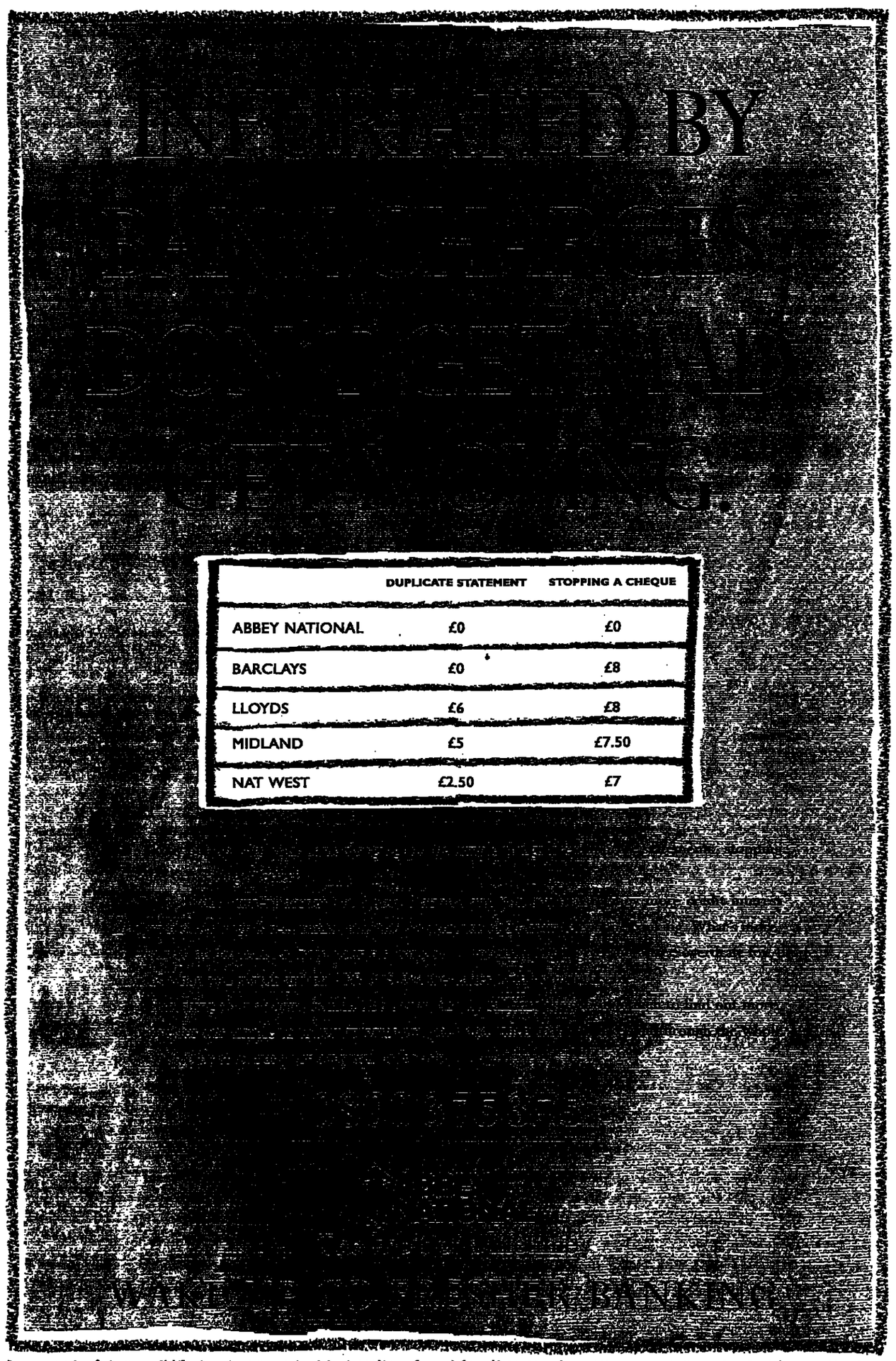


The Lego figures

The club has bought a black doll as a result, Mr Foster said. It already had many children's books reflecting a multi-cultural society. Mr Foster, 43, said he was aware of the need to promote racial equality among children after running a London community centre before moving to rural Gloucestershire. But he felt the inspector's demand went too far.

Douglas French, Tory MP for Gloucester, said: "It is very harmful to take political correctness to such a daft length. They should use a little bit more common sense."

A spokesman for Gloucestershire County Council defended the inspector, saying: "Our equal opportunities policy is to reflect multi-cultural society. It's especially important in rural areas where children might not have much multi-cultural experience."



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Unprecedented redundancy deal for 3,000 will cut jail staff by 7 per cent as number of inmates soars

Prison officers fear job losses will lead to riots


Tilt: admitted that cuts would be difficult

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

The Royal College of Midwives is to urge Britain's prisons to scrap the "inhuman" practice of shackling pregnant prisoners while in hospitals. Caroline Flint, college president, will meet Richard Tilt, the director-general of the Prison Service, today in an effort to end what she calls a barbaric procedure. It emerged earlier this month that a pregnant inmate at Holloway Prison, North London, was handcuffed to prevent an escape during her 12-hour labour in the nearby Whittington Hospital.

PRISON staff said yesterday that there could be jail disturbances as a result of the loss of almost 3,000 jobs to help meet Treasury-imposed spending cuts.

Older governors and prison officers will be offered a redundancy package involving enhanced pension rights and lump sums to leave the service. The Prison Service is seeking to cut costs by 13.3 per cent over the next three years.

The redundancy deal, the first offered by the Prison Service, is one of a series of measures designed to cut £65 million from the £1.35 billion annual cost of running the 133 jails in England and Wales. It is expected to reduce the number of employees, currently 37,900, by 2,800 by the end of 1998.

A freeze on recruitment has been imposed which will reduce staff numbers by a further 1,000; capital spending has been cut; and prisoners will spend more time locked in their cells at night.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, has been warned that there could be a shortage of jail accommodation between February and May this year. She has been told that to overcome the difficulties the service might have to put 1,100 inmates two to a cell.

Richard Tilt, acting director-general of the Prison Service, confirmed yesterday that there would be voluntary redundancies but would not put a figure on how many.

Officials have concluded that as staff pay makes up the biggest part of the budget, only job losses over three years will enable them to meet the Treasury-imposed cutback.

Mr Tilt admitted that meeting the budget reduction would be "difficult". He added: "The first priority in all of this is to maintain proper control and good order in prisons. If we don't, we put the safety of staff and prisoners at risk."

He said cuts in education, prison farms and workshops would be a last resort. "We aim to protect the core part of the regimes".

The redundancies represent about 7 per cent of the Prison Service's total staffing levels. Prison governors and officers expressed alarm at the cuts and gave warning of a return to inmates being locked up for long periods. David Evans, of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "This is a high-risk strategy likely to lead to prison disturbances and disruption."

Penal reform groups also said that a rising prison population combined with budget cuts could lead to a loss of control and jail riots.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said the cuts in jobs would be devastating. "Prisoners will spend longer in their cells with less to do and the most experienced staff will leave. Tension levels will rise within prisons with the risk of serious incidents breaking out."

Prison governors will today be sent their budget allocation for 1996. It will be left to them how they implement the cutbacks. Prison Service sources said they hoped there would be no compulsory redundancies. Officers and those in governor grades aged over 55 with at least 20 years' experience will be the first group to be offered voluntary redundancy, followed by those over 50.

The drive to cut staffing levels through voluntary redundancy comes as the service is predicting the prison population will reach an all-time high of 53,700 by March.

Countdown of neighbour who asked for a lift from Branson

BY OLIVER AUGUST AND ANDREW PIERCE

ANDRE CAMARA

Rory McCarthy and his wife Sally: they spent a night together inside the balloon capsule and overslept

RORY McCarthy was enjoying a weekend with his family yesterday as he prepared for three weeks with the neighbour he asked for a lift. The neighbour was Richard Branson.

McCarthy was one of more than 1,000 applicants who asked to be the third crewman on the *Virgin Global Challenger*, which lifts off this week to try to orbit the globe. Like Branson, he is a successful businessman, a lover of excitement, and lives in Holland Park, west London.

He has already spent one night in the balloon capsule. To see exactly how crowded it might feel, he took his wife Sally and sleeping bags. They were so comfortable, they overslept and were awoken the next morning by the welders finishing off the capsule.

"Psychology will be the most trying part of the journey," he said. "Three people will be stuck in a capsule ten feet wide for 21 days."

McCarthy, 35, has had several careers. He conquered the City, but grew bored with all that ten years ago. He became a successful prawn farmer, then a millionaire businessman. For real excitement, he threw himself off a balloon and didn't release his parachute for two minutes. He became a professional hang-glider, and broke the world sky-diving altitude record.

But he says of Branson: "I am not as whacky as he is. I am really much more conservative."

McCarthy owns several leisure companies. His Siam Trading Corporation began in 1990 as one of the world's largest king-prawn farmers. Today his assets are worth £90 million and include numerous restaurants. "Basically what we do involves fun," he said. The historic flight couldn't have come at a worse time for McCarthy's business. He is in the middle of restructuring and renaming his company.

On board, he will be responsible for safety, being the only one who has jumped from a balloon at 35,000ft. "My role is simple. If there is an emergency I take Richard with me, like the man who takes the bullet for the President," he said.

While Per Lindstrand is navigating and Mr Branson is monitoring the eight video cameras on board for an ITV documentary, Mr McCarthy will also be looking after their nutritional needs. Because the air is so dry at high altitude they will have to drink ten pints of water a day. But to relieve stress they will also get a bottle of Virgin Vodka each.

Sally, 39, and their children Bo, 2, Cameron, 6, and Alexandra, 10, will be there when he comes down again. He said: "Doing this sort of thing was much easier when I didn't have a family. That's what makes this project different. But I am coming back from this. I want to have a good time."

The nutritionist Nigel Gifford, who advised Chris Bonington on his ascent of K2, flew into Marrakesh last night to oversee the dietary arrangements for the Virgin Challenger crew, who will be using a microwave.

A team of 150 electricians, engineers, seamstresses and technicians are working in eight-hour shifts, round the clock, for Thursday's launch. The work is being carried out in two adjacent hangars at the military base at Marrakesh Airport in Morocco. Armed soldiers maintain a discreet but constant presence. More than 30 tonnes of equipment was flown in by Airbus on Saturday and was finally unloaded yesterday lunchtime. All the equipment had to arrive before the onset of Ramadan at the weekend. Any materials which came in after the start of the four-week holy period were unlikely to move much beyond the ports.

Mother tells of family's grief after latest Ecstasy death

BY LEYLA LINTON


Andreas Bouzis: died after single tablet

THE mother of a teenager with a heart condition who died after taking Ecstasy at a nightclub said last night that she had lost her reason for living. Andreas Bouzis, 19, died after he and two friends took Ecstasy tablets shortly before going into the UK Club in Wandsworth, southwest London.

Josephine Bouzis said of her only son: "Andreas was our life, our family, our love, our reason to live. On Friday he went to a club just as your child may have done. Now he is dead, gone forever."

Mrs Bouzis, who was accompanied by her husband, Tasos, and two of her son's friends, told a news conference: "Everything I have had over the past 19 years has been taken away. Yesterday my son had a future, just as your child. Now he is dead."

Mrs Bouzis, who is Spanish-born, added: "Families and their love are very precious. Ecstasy destroys families."

Peter Georgiou, 19, who took an Ecstasy tablet with Andreas but suffered no ill effects, warned other young clubbers to resist the pressures to take drugs. He said: "Due to an Ecstasy tablet costing just £10 our best friend has lost his life. Anyone who goes clubbing will understand the pressure of taking them, but it is just not worth it."

Andreas began sweating profusely just under two hours after taking the tablet early on Saturday and told his friends he was going to the front door for some air. He collapsed and died at the club. The tablets were in the shape of a rabbit.

Neighbours in Finchley described Andreas as a sensible and well-brought-up teenager. One said: "I've known him since he was a boy. He was very courteous and loved football. I couldn't stop crying when I heard, it's awful. He was the last person you would expect to be taking drugs."

Detective Chief Inspector Roger Couzens told the press conference: "This tragic death highlights the dangers that young people put themselves in when they take drugs. I ask all young people out there in the future, when they are offered drugs, to take that into consideration."

Mr Couzens confirmed that Andreas had a weak heart and that he had no evidence that the teenager had taken drugs in the past. He said that although the exact cause of death would not be known until later this week, all the indications were that the Ecstasy tablet had had an effect on Andreas's heart. It is not believed that Andreas died from drinking too much water.

Police have raided the club in the past and on Saturday night, after they were called to Andreas's death, they arrested one person for possession of drugs with intent to supply. Police issued a photofit of the person they believed had supplied the drug to Andreas. He was in his mid-20s, 5ft 8in tall, with centre-parted dark hair and brown eyes.

Mr Couzens said police had not applied to close the premises but put forward "certain objections" to local magistrates.

Hormone may stop brain damage caused by stress

BY LEYLA LINTON


Herbert: made study of depression in children

A NATURAL hormone could help prevent the brain damage or malfunction believed to be caused by stress, according to a Cambridge scientist.

Dehydroepiandrosterone, or DHEA, which has been dubbed a youth elixir in the United States, appears to combat the harmful effects of cortisol, a hormone triggered by stress, which can cause brain damage, according to Dr Joe Herbert of the Department of Anatomy and the Centre for Brain Repair at Cambridge University.

"There is lots of experimental evidence to show that cortisol can cause brain damage. There is a very real concern now that in some kinds of people this is entirely possible, but DHEA might prevent you from getting this brain damage," he said.

Experiments on animals have shown that injections of cortisol cause loss of brain cells in the part of the brain which is mainly concerned with memory and learning. Similar damage has been seen in animals subject to stress. Some stroke patients also show elevated levels of cortisol, as do older people.

DHEA is the most abundant steroid hormone in the body. It appears at about the age of seven and is found in large amounts in children. It peaks in adolescence but declines to a very low level among the old. DHEA is also decreased by stress and illness, according to Dr Herbert.

A three-year research project by Dr Herbert and Ian Goodyer, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Cambridge, concludes that high levels of cortisol and low levels of DHEA are associated with major depression, which Dr Herbert believes is a form of brain malfunction.

The results of the study of hormonal changes in more than 90 depressed children are published this month in *Psychological Medicine*. Dr Herbert said that the role of cortisol in depression had been known, but the role of DHEA had not.

"The problem has always been that hormonal changes in depression have only been detected in half the patients. We think that is because we have only been looking at one hormone." Dr Herbert and Professor Goodyer are now studying 140 normal children at risk of getting depression and measuring changes in hormone levels to see if they can tell who will develop it.

Letters, page 17

Underweight smoker has slim chance of survival

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE highly conscientious, grossly overweight, heavy-smoking 50-year-old man seemed to face all the hazards of a hard-working, hard-living life. The only question was whether his collapse would follow a stroke, a coronary thrombosis or lung cancer.

The answer to the question came during the cold pre-Christmas weather, when he developed a sudden crushing chest pain as he went out into the night and was exposed to a blast of North Sea wind. The pain passed within half an hour but a few days later he had a serious heart attack.

It is generally accepted that excess weight increases the chance of a stroke, a heart attack, diabetes and several forms of cancer, including cancer of the breast, prostate and large bowel. But hitherto its influence on the incidence of cancer of the lung has not been studied.

Most doctors have patients who refuse to stop smoking because they believe that their otherwise healthy lifestyle, which keeps them lean, muscular and athletically fit, will protect them from cancer of the lung. They are wrong. Not being obese will halve their chance of a stroke, and reduce the likelihood of a coronary thrombosis, but the effect of weight on the chances of developing cancer of the lung is surprising.

A recent study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* shows that remaining thin does not provide any protection against lung cancer. No cigarette smoker is immune from the grossly inflated danger of cancer of the lung — over 90 per cent of these cancers occur in cigarette smokers — but the very thin smoker is almost four times more likely to develop the disease than the fat smoker. The thinner a person is the more likely he or she is to succumb.

It is suggested that thin people may have lower body levels of the antioxidant vitamins E, C and beticarotene, which are fat soluble. The antioxidant vitamins are thought to be cancer protective as well as beneficial to the arteries.

This latest research does not give smokers an excuse to remain overweight, given the other risks attached. The research does, however, add to the growing evidence of the importance of the antioxidant vitamins, whether taken in pill form or with the diet as fresh green vegetables, citrus fruits, tomatoes, carrots, peppers or red wine.


Tasos and Josephine Bouzis at yesterday's press conference. "Andreas was our life," his mother said

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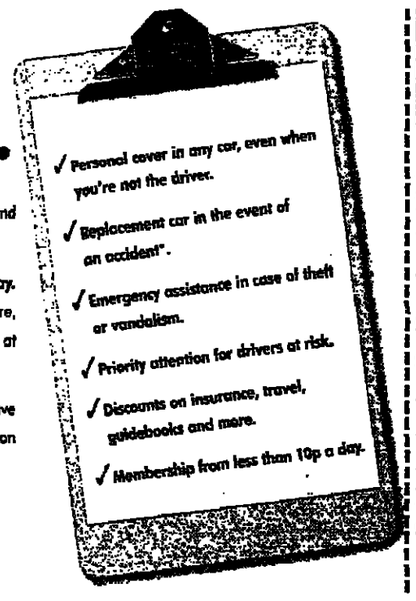
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Britain runs out of space for dead

BY IAN MURRAY

BRITAIN is facing a crisis in finding ways to dispose sensitively of the 650,000 bodies of those who die each year.

Overcrowding in cemeteries is becoming so acute that the Government is being asked to change the law to allow graves to be reused. At the same time the cost of upgrading crematoriums to meet the Environmental Protection Act is proving too high for hard-up local authorities.

Pressure on cemetery space is particularly acute in urban areas. Two London boroughs — Hackney and Tower Hamlets — already have no burial space. A further six boroughs will have no space by the end of the century and face the unpopular choice of turning parkland into cemeteries.

A survey of 700 cemeteries in the 200 largest local authorities has found that on average they are three quarters full, while 70 have no space left at all. Ian Hussein, secretary of the Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration, said it was not politically popular to spend money on cemeteries instead of on something like a new park. "A long-term solution has got to be found or the day will come when we have nowhere to bury the dead," he said.

About 70 per cent of all bodies are cremated, but Dr Julie Rugg of the University of York's Cemetery Research Group believes that more families would choose burial if it were possible to find a plot. "Because of pressure on space, authorities with plots to spare can charge anything up to £1,000 and many people cannot afford that," she said.

The price of cremation, too, is rising steeply because of the high cost of converting furnaces to meet new environmental standards. Many councils may now privatise their crematoriums. The Government has just changed the rules to allow them to keep 90 per cent of the proceeds of any sales made up to June 1997.



SOUTH WEST NEWS

Volunteers carry out a search of common land at Yate, near Bristol. Louise's father, Robert Smith, below, was overwhelmed by the response from members of the public



Ten thousand volunteers fail to find missing girl

BY RICHARD DUCE

THEY came in droves and from all walks of life. Ten thousand volunteers turned up yesterday for Britain's biggest mass search in the hope of finding clues to the disappearance of the missing teenager Louise Smith.

Police had expected only 2,000 people would offer to help Robert Smith trace his daughter, who was last seen on Christmas Day after leaving a nightclub. But it seemed as if the entire population of Yate, near Bristol, was on the move. Mr Smith, 49, of Chipping Sodbury, said: "I am overwhelmed. I never expected this many." A series of police searches using helicopters, tracker dogs and divers have so far failed to find any trace of Louise. The volunteers joined Louise's relatives, friends, 150 police officers and tracker dogs to carry out "line searches" of fields and common land for anything that could help to determine what happened to Louise, 18, a clerical assistant.

Chief Inspector Piet Biesheuvel, of Avon and Somerset police, said: "The response has been tremendous." Among the searchers was the Northavon MP Sir John Cope, who said: "This case has touched the public's imagination because we can all relate to the family."

Louise's friend, Lisa Parry, who also joined the search, said: "We cannot give up hope of finding her alive."

Another searcher was Paul Hancock, a bank clerk who drove 40 miles from his home in Swindon. "I came to help because I felt so sorry for Louise's family," he said. "It is hard to imagine the pain they must be going through."

Detective Superintendent John Newman, who is heading the hunt, said six hours of searching had turned up small items of clothing but there was nothing to link them to Louise.



Louise disappeared

Fourth Spanish crop failure drives up price of olive oil

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SUPERMARKETS and delicatessens are preparing for extra pressures in meeting the fashionable demand for olive oil after Spain's fourth successive crop failure.

The price of a half-litre bottle of extra virgin oil, currently about £3, could soon rise to £5. Yet even that cannot be expected to panic the serious devotees who already pay up to £26 a litre for estate-bottled and vintage oils. Sainsbury's lists some 15 premium olive oils from estates in Italy and France in its Special Selection range, at up to £11.99 for a half-litre. Oils flavoured with lemon or orange are £7.50 for 250ml.

Many wine merchants now feature specially chosen olive oils in their lists, and one, Enotria Winecellars, organises a tasting of new vintage oils with as much enthusiasm as if they were vintage wines. This year, Enotria's "fruity" oil from the Isola e Olena estate in Chianti will be £13.49 a half-litre, compared with £8.79 last year. "We have had to cut our margins to keep some of the prices at all reasonable," said Enotria's Jonathan Henfrey.

Charles Carey, who runs The Oil Merchant, importing single-estate Italian oils, said: "I sell twelve times as much as at the end of the 1980s. Now I am advising people to buy ahead of their needs."

Shop prices for branded and supermarket oils rose by nearly 40 per cent during 1995, but further increases are inevitable because in the same time prices in the international wholesale markets have doubled, and are still rising. The current Spanish crop, still being crushed, is expected to yield some 250,000 tonnes, compared to the million tonnes that might be achieved in a good year. Italy, which produces 400,000 tonnes but sells 700,000, relies on imports from Spain to make up its shortfall. This year, of the major producers only Greece has any surplus and buyers have scoured Tunisia and Turkey and as far afield as Syria and Jordan.

More than a fifth of British households are now regular users of olive oil, spending about £37.5 million and consuming 15,000 tonnes, in a national enthusiasm for Mediterranean cuisine and healthy eating.

Leading article, page 17

Cathedral sees car as mixed blessing

BY LEYLA LINTON

A SERVICE at Coventry Cathedral to celebrate the centenary of the invention of the car will also ask the forgiveness of God for its harmful effects.

The service, instigated by Coventry City Council and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, has angered environmentalists, who believe it will glorify the car.

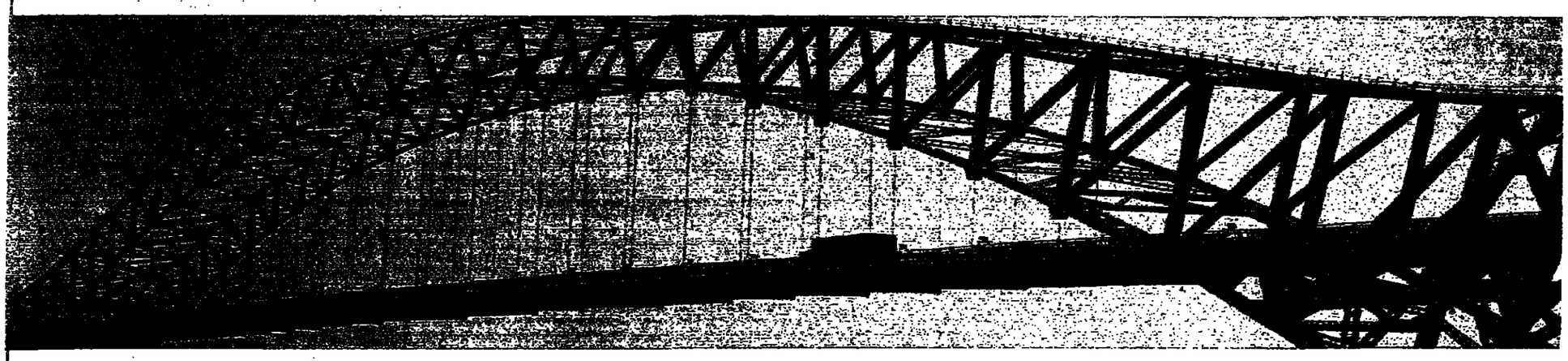
The Rev Lawrence Mortimer, spokesman for the cathedral, said the service would make clear that the car had been a mixed blessing. A Bidding Prayer will thank God for the benefits that the motor vehicle had brought. But it adds: "We must also acknowledge its harmful effects: among them environmental pollution from exhaust fumes, the relentless encroachment of new roads into our countryside, and the appalling toll of death and injury due to accidents. For this we ask forgiveness of God."

Mr Mortimer said: "Every Christian worship has an act of penitence built into it and this is no exception ... The cathedral is in the middle of a motor city and it knows what it is about. A cathedral is nothing if it does not engage with the real world." The cathedral has a sculpture of the head of Christ on show made from the wreck of a car involved in a fatal accident.

At the service on Wednesday two cars, one vintage, one electric, will be driven down the cathedral aisle.

Friends of the Earth and members of charity Roadpeace, which campaigns on behalf of victims of car accidents, are planning to protest outside the cathedral and at an evening banquet celebrating the centenary.

Gerald Kells, of the West Midlands Friends of the Earth, said: "The cathedral is being turned into a car showroom. I think it is naive of the Provost and the Bishop to think that the motor trade is not doing this for PR purposes."



The people who insure the truck also insure the bridge.

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Inventors take a shot at ending golf hacker's misery

BY JOHN YOUNG

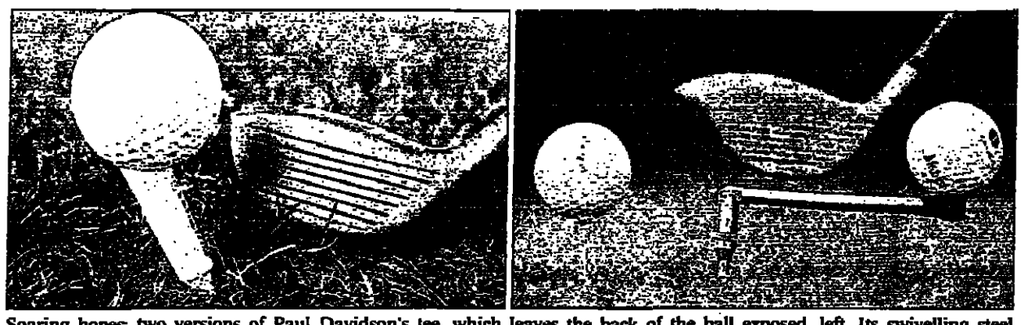
TWO further attempts to alleviate the misery of the golfer whose ball refuses to fly straight and true are about to appear in club professionals' shops.

The two new designs of golf tee are so different that logic suggests that both inventors cannot be right. Precedent also suggests that, like almost every other device intended to make the game easier, the high-tech tees will fall foul of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the guardian of the rules. It has the power of veto and takes a properly Calvinistic view that suffering is good for the soul.

In one new design the back of the plastic tee cup that holds the ball is cut away. In the other the tee is reinforced by a raised bracket against which the ball sits, preventing the club from making direct contact with the missile.

The latter, known as the Arnold Palmer Anti-Slice Tee, is based on the premise that wayward hooks and slices are the result of the club head striking the ball at the wrong angle. But if the club strikes only the bracket on the top of the tee and not the ball, the latter will soar away in a straight line, however clumsy the impact. In theory, at least.

Voco UK, of Ormskirk, Lancashire, plans to market the tee within a couple of months. But Tim Daniels, of Second Chance, which held the Arnold Palmer concession until last year, is less optimistic. He said the tees broke easily, and there were many complaints from customers trying them out. They had not been a great success in the United States.



Soaring hopes: two versions of Paul Davidson's tee, which leaves the back of the ball exposed, left. Its swivelling steel forerunner, right, hich has already been banned. Mr Davidson believes that the club should strike only the ball, never the tee

Another inventor, Paul Davidson, on the other hand, believes that the club should strike only the ball, not touching the tee at all. Two years ago his Master Tee, a swivelling steel contraption costing around £30, was banned by the Royal and Ancient. He has now come up with a device, costing a fraction of a penny to produce, in which the rim of the cup runs only two thirds of the way round the front of the ball, leaving the back exposed so that only the ball and not the tee is hit by the club. He has produced two versions, one to be inserted at a 45-degrees. "Lots of people have testified that it works," he said yesterday. "If you hit a round object with a flat surface, it can only go one way," he added — which must be news to most golfers.

The R and A said yesterday that, as none of the designs had been submitted for inspection, it could not comment. Equipment makers were not required to submit products for approval, but it added ominously that the rules committee would investigate any complaints of unfair practice.

The history of the Grand Old Game is littered with often disputatious attempts to introduce devices designed to ease the pain and suffering. In May 1967 a joint committee of the Royal and Ancient and the United States Golf Association agreed a ban on putters shaped like croquet mallets, though it was far from clear that these would help anyone's game.

In August 1977 the great American golfer Tom Watson found his clubs outlawed on the eve of the PGA championship at Pebble Beach, California, because the grooves in the club faces were too wide and too many. That foreshadowed a long dispute between the association and the makers of Ping clubs over the use of square grooves, which were said to impart an inordinate amount of backspin. An Arizona court eventually found in Ping's favour.

Many years before, Americans had been introduced to the Faultless, a "solid" ball which was claimed to be immune to cuts and scuffs but which apparently did not find general favour. More bizarre was the claim by one Arthur Pendrick in 1976 to have invented a "hovering" golf ball, using a special high-voltage generator to produce an electrostatic field surrounding the tee. In 1988 the Royal and Ancient banned Japanese balls deemed to travel too fast.

Nation on the edge of its seat as Granada v Forte goes to the last round

Armchair armies dig in for battle of the City giants

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JOE JOSEPH

GRANADA'S bid for the Forte hotel empire has joined the select few financial battles which not only dominate City wine bar chatter, but also interest people with no shares in either combatant.

With just over a week before investors make crunch decisions on Granada's offer, both sides have attracted die-hard supporters who champion their camp and study every news dispatch from the front. The opinions of these spectators has grown as polarised as those of the two companies.

And it is not just about money, even though most of the nation has some indirect stake through the investments of their pension funds and life insurance companies, or their television and leisure interests, or even their choice of service station.

Forte's armchair army is charmed by Rocco Forte's suave manner. His supporters are convinced that Gerry Robinson, boss of the Granada television and catering group, still deserves the insult so memorably slung on his appointment, when John Cleese called him an "ignorant upstart caterer" — even though the two have long since made their peace.

Robinson's fans admire his business record and wag an admonishing finger at the "fusty" management of the Forte group, led by a chief executive who was out shooting on the morning the bid broke. Among City and industry figures, the consensus is that the bid has swung Granada's way, although even ardent Robinson supporters are prepared to compliment Forte on its defence.

FORTE

GRANADA

Author and television presenter Melvyn Bragg has few doubts: "Forte have made a spirited defence but they have not answered the questions being asked."

Bragg, outgoing chairman of Border Television, has dealt with Robinson as both a business friend and enemy. Bragg was on the board of London Weekend Television when Granada launched its successful £735 million bid there. He is now a Robinson employee, as head of arts at LWT, and says: "The company has an extremely efficient management team. In my experience it has proved to be a most benevolent employer."

An experienced City figure remarked: "It has boiled down to an argument between cash and Rocco Forte. I would rather have the cash."

Also waving their flags for the Granada camp are David Michels, chief executive of the hotel group Stakis; Francis Mackay, chief executive at caterers Compass, where Robinson first made his name; and Rudolph Agnew, chairman of Lasmo, which fought off a £1.6 billion bid from Enterprise Oil in 1994.

Many City fund managers, who have a pivotal role, seem to have lined up behind Granada. Scott Meech, a UK fund manager at Threadneedle Asset Management, which holds a small stake in Forte, said that recent share purchases by major institutional shareholders had been made in both companies, a tactic that is believed to favour Granada as it supports the company's share price and preserves the value of the bid. In particular, Mercury Asset Management, which holds around 15 per cent in Forte and Granada, has been sporting this tactic. The MAM team — headed by vice-chairwoman Carol Galley, reputedly the highest-paid professional woman in Britain — played a key role in ensuring Robinson won the 1994 battle for LWT. Ms Galley's tactics infuriated Greg Dyke, then of LWT and now chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television, who accused her of a lack of trust and short-termism, but they have secured her reputation as one of the City's most powerful women.



The contenders: Rocco Forte, left, is either a suave sophisticate or head of a "fusty" management. Gerry Robinson is highly efficient — or an "upstart caterer"

Forte is far from friendless. Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of the electrical retailer Dixons, said: "The days of wild conglomerate activity are past and I see no industrial logic in the Granada bid whatsoever."

Lord Rees-Mogg, ex-chairman of publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, which was previously owned by Forte, said: "Granada spends its time claiming to be the better manager, but the management logic of its proposals is much weaker."

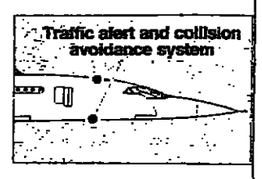
One supportive fund manager criticised Forte shareholders for using the takeover as a route to better management. "If they want better management they could have acted against the board years ago."

Other prominent supporters include Sir John Egan, chief executive of the airports group BAA, and Brian Winterflood, managing director of City market-makers Winterflood. Everyone agrees the battle will go right to the wire.

Letters, page 17
City, page 40

NEWS IN BRIEF

Radar breakthrough beats Concorde ban



A threat to ban Concorde from America has been lifted after British engineers found a way of preventing new radar domes from disintegrating at supersonic speeds (Harvey Elliott writes). American safety experts had threatened a ban because the compulsory Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) did not work on Concorde. The stresses and strains on the supersonic aircraft were found to be cracking the domes covering the equipment. The domes, a few inches high, were the first external alteration to Concorde's sleek lines since it began commercial services to the US almost 20 years ago. Chelton Electrostatics of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, has developed a new material and a thermoplastic bonding technique to satisfy the Federal Aviation Authority.

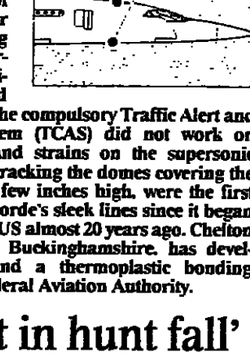
Prince 'hurt in hunt fall'

The Prince of Wales was reported to have been injured after falling from a horse while hunting near York. Witnesses were said to have seen his face swollen and grazed as he got to his feet. Buckingham Palace said that when the Prince returned to the house of friends where he was staying for the weekend "he hadn't got a mark on him".

Fund targets UK poverty

The Tear Fund is to become the second overseas aid charity to target poverty in Britain, it was announced yesterday. Its initiative, UK Action, will support church-run projects in an attempt to alter attitudes to deprivation. It will work with the Evangelical Alliance, formerly part of the fund, and hopes to raise £10 million in the next six years.

Offa's Dyke for sale

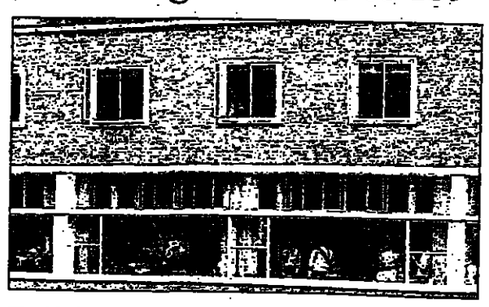


British Coal is selling part of Offa's Dyke, right, in a major disposal of land and properties in northeast Wales. The 100-metre area of the historic earthworks, at Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, Clwyd, is among more than 1,000 acres of assets being sold by the former state-owned corporation. The 177-mile path was built between 757 and 796 by Offa, King of Mercia, to mark the frontier set by his wars with the Welsh.

South drinks more wine

Twenty per cent of households in London serve wine at home more than three times a week, according to a survey for Victoria Wine. However, in the East Midlands that figure drops to 6 per cent, while 35 per cent in Yorkshire, Humberside, the West Midlands and Wales never serve wine in their home, compared with 27 per cent nationally.

Goldfinger home to let



The National Trust is seeking a tenant for the modernist home of Erno Goldfinger, the Hungarian architect. The three-bedroom maisonette, above, in Willow Road, Hampstead, northwest London, is noted for its 1930s fittings and works of art by Henry Moore, Max Ernst and Roland Penrose. It is due to open to the public in April after being refurbished by the trust, which launched an appeal to buy the art when it acquired it in 1994. Rent, which includes use of the one-acre garden, is £325 a week.

Grand Prix stars face driving test

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FORMULA ONE racing-drivers, among the world's highest paid sportsmen, are to be forced to sit a written test on safety before they are allowed to compete in Grands Prix from next year.

Max Moseley, the president of International Motor Sport Federation, said: "There have been one or two cases of drivers doing things they ought not to do because they didn't know the rules. On two occasions at least, drivers have been before the world council [on motor-racing] because they broke the rules. One admitted he did not know what they were."

Formula One drivers with the experience of the world champion Michael Schumacher and his arch-rival Damon Hill will have to turn up in Paris once a year to sit the multiple-choice test under strict exam conditions.

The questions cover rules on warning-flags, the use of safety cars, aborted races, behaviour in the pit lane and what to do if the car spins and ends up facing the wrong way. The test will not cover controversial areas such as overtaking manoeuvres. "We will only test on things where there is a specific rule, such as whether a black flag with an orange disc means 'Your car is on fire' or 'Come in now for a cup of tea'," Mr Moseley said.

Any of the 22 Formula One drivers who fail on a single question will be asked to resit the test before being allowed to compete. The tests will be introduced towards the end of the year and have to be passed before the 1997 season.

☐ Sales of the most expensive cars have risen to their highest level for five years, according to undisclosed motor industry figures. Spending on cars such as Mercedes, Jaguars and Rolls-Royces jumped by £800 million last year.

While the average buyer, worried about the economy, kept away from showrooms, boardroom chiefs, emboldened by higher profits and lower interest rates, were replacing limousines and company cars. Total new car registrations last year grew by 1.9 per cent: those in the executive sector by 16 per cent.

Legion wants US to study Gulf War Syndrome here

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE Royal British Legion yesterday urged the Government to invite the American group investigating so-called Gulf War Syndrome to come to this country to take evidence from British veterans.

"There is cause for concern, and we would like more answers," Bobby Hanscomb, the Legion's assistant secretary, said. "There are plenty of reasons to look further".

A survey involving only British troops would be expensive and probably statistically too small to be conclusive, he said. It would be far better to include them in the much larger US exercise, involving some 30,000 men and women.

The ex-servicemen's charity has been approached by more than 400 survivors of the 1991 campaign to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, about half of whom have since been granted disability pensions.

Although the public tend to think of the Legion as a social club which turns out for Remembrance services, the organisation was set up in 1921 in order to plead the case of shell-shocked victims of the First World War. Colonel Terry English, the Legion's welfare controller, said it was always ready to take up a cause if there had been an injustice or the Government was ignoring complaints.



Dalton: concerned over younger servicemen

The American survey embraced two groups of about 15,000 people each, he said. The Legion would like to include about 100 British servicemen in each group.

Symptoms ranged from serious diseases like motor-neurone disease and leukaemia to minor skin complaints, but the underlying factor was that all the sufferers felt that immunisation against various diseases and chemical warfare agents was responsible. It was perhaps significant that the French, who had not been subjected to similar precautions, had reported no cases of Gulf War Syndrome, Colonel English said.

Yesterday *The Sunday Times* reported that there had been a high proportion of birth defects among children of veterans. Michael Colvin, chairman of the Commons Defence Select Committee, will this week call for a full epidemiological study.

At the launch yesterday of the Legion's 75th anniversary celebrations, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, its president, emphasised its concern for younger servicemen. Since 1945 they had been involved in more than 70 conflicts: only one third of the Legion's membership now consisted of Second World War veterans.

Bush recalls, page 11
Photograph, page 20

Rock stars drum up the young vote

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

BRITAIN's leading rock stars are to launch a series of concerts, music videos and advertisements to encourage 18 to 24-year-olds to vote at the next general election. The non-partisan campaign, called Rock the Vote, is expected to be supported by Damon Albarn, lead singer of the group Blur, and by the bands Oasis, M-People and Simply Red.

John Preston, chairman of the record company BMG and a member of the Rock the Vote board, said that it was designed to help first-time voters feel that they were part of the political system. According to MORI, around half of all 18 to 24-year-olds did not vote in 1992 and 15 per cent have already made up their minds not to vote next time.

"For first-time voters, single issue politics are often more important than parliamentary politics. There is a danger that we could lose a generation of people from the political scene," he said. The campaign will be officially launched at the Ministry of Sound night club in south London on February 18.



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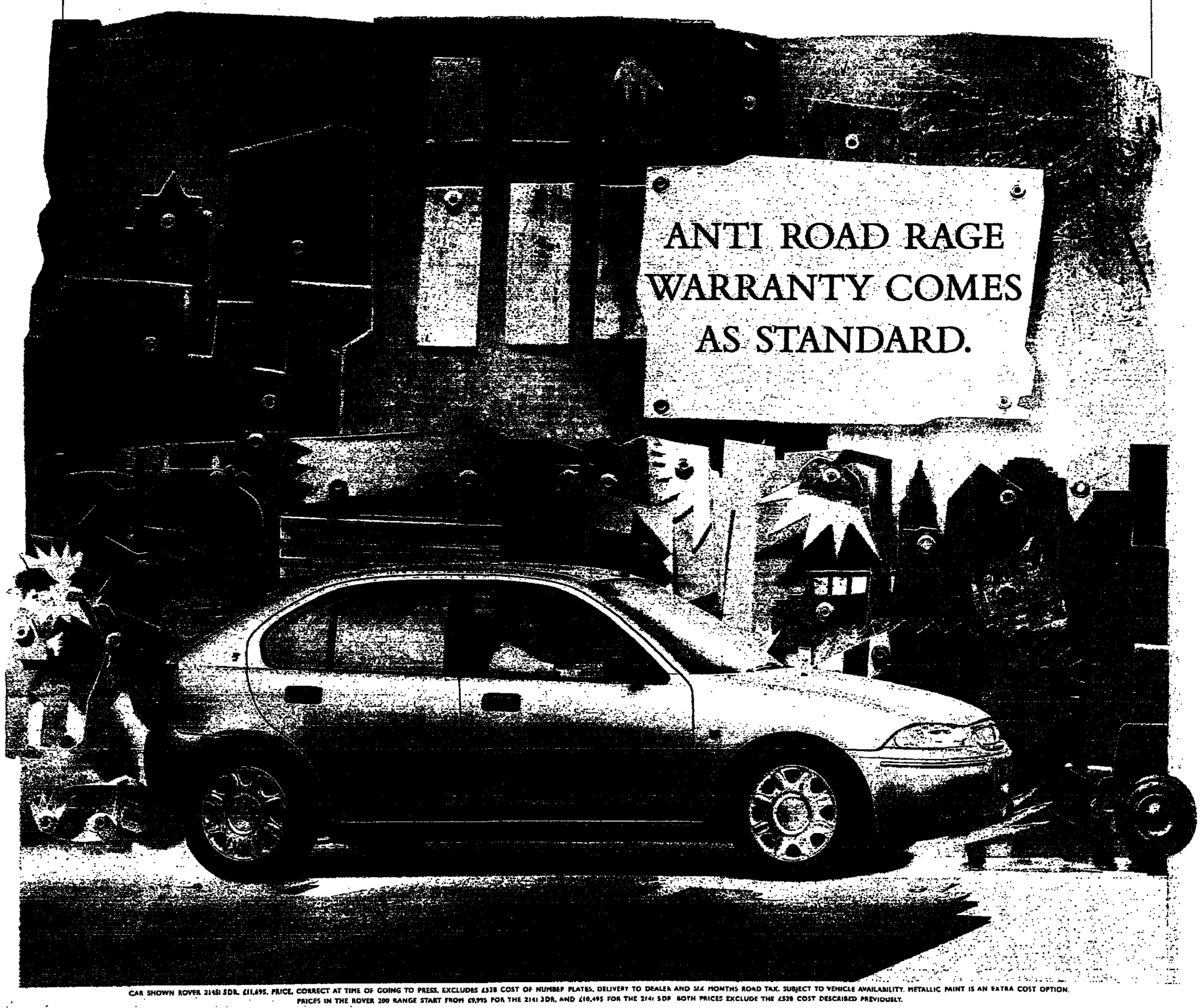
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Experts back Natal protesters in fight to save game park

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN ST LUCIA, SOUTH AFRICA

TO the delight of hundreds of thousands of South Africans who fought plans to stripmine the ancient sand dunes of St Lucia, on Natal's north coast, a government-backed research project has firmly supported development of the area for eco-tourism.

R.F. "Pik" Botha, Minister of Energy and Mineral Affairs, will meet colleagues today to agree on a position they will take to the full Cabinet based on the findings of the report.

The Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park has five distinct natural areas providing a breathtaking mosaic of sandy beaches and coral reefs, backing on to the largest estuarine lake in Africa. The eastern shores are lined with lush forests and dunes that plunge down to grassy plains and reed swamps, while dry savanna and thornveld can be found to the west. Covering more than 600,000 acres, the reserve has a greater diversity of plant life than the famous Kruger National Park.

Home to more than 2,000 vertebrate species — including 140 officially designated "endangered" animals — it contains large numbers of hippopotamus, crocodile and reedbuck and migratory birds, including flamingos and pelicans.

Backed by the golfer Gary Player and Laurens van der Post, the Campaign for St Lucia wants the park declared a world heritage site. While the park has been the focus of several land-use controversies for decades, the latest debate stems from 1989 when Richards Bay Minerals applied for a lease to extract titanium — a whitener used in paints and paper — from along the eastern shores area.

An independent environmental impact assessment gave the mining project the go-ahead under strict constraints, but a government-appointed review panel, launched after the ensuing public outcry, put the skids under the mining project. Last year Derek Hanekom, Land Affairs Minister, sought to resolve the issue by sponsoring a report by the independent Land and Agriculture Policy Centre.

The new report challenges assumptions that losses to the tourism industry because of mining were minor compared to the economic contribution of mining and that, once mining was completed, the rehabilitated dunes could equally be used for eco-tourism. It argues they were based on the judgments of consultants with no experience in the tourism industry and overlooked the problem of dune slumping caused by mining.

"Their report is a boon and a danger," Barry Clements, manager of public and community affairs at Richards Bay Minerals, said in reply.



St Lucia, home of hippos and crocodiles as well as migratory flamingos, has been endorsed as a tourist area by government researchers

"It was important that the mining industry cleaned up its act, but this can block economic development in a poor region. It will send negative signals to the international business community." However, the presence of a mine could preclude the successful overseas marketing of the park as a prime international tourist destination, the report says. The eastern shores targeted for mining are a gateway to the heart of the park, and if mining went ahead the world heritage application would be in jeopardy. With bumper numbers of tourists pouring into South Africa — there are projections of more than two million by the year 2000 — the researchers concluded that the loss of revenue could rival or exceed that brought in by mining. Geert Creemers, one of the project's researchers, said: "This region could bring in huge amounts of money to the community and at the same time the environment would be protected through eco-tourism. It is a win-win situation for the new South Africa."

Leakey is harassed by mob in Mombasa

FROM SCOTT STRAUS IN MOMBASA

THE car of Richard Leakey, the opposition politician, was stoned when he arrived in Mombasa yesterday to try to open a centre of his Safina party.

Dr Leakey and his delegation were heckled and trailed by mobs of youths supporting President Moi's Kenyan African National Union (Kanu). Supporters said a local Safina official, arrested on Friday, had been tortured in prison.

The party officials had come to Mombasa to launch a "support centre", which could become a party branch if the Government allows Safina to be registered. The centre would have been Safina's first.

However, on Friday police arrested Khelef Khalifa, Safina's key organiser in Mombasa. Two Safina members who visited him in prison said he had been tortured.

President Moi and his senior officials have denounced Dr Leakey, a third-generation white Kenyan, and his party since its formation last May. The party applied for official registration more than six months ago; unregistered, it is barred from holding meetings or opening branches.

Muturi Kigano, Safina's chairman, said the Mombasa centre was not opened because Mr Khalifa had made all the preparations and no one else knew where the office was.

Mombasa is key opposition territory. A Safina official described the state campaign as "terror". Dr Leakey, who returned to Nairobi, was heckled all the way to the airport.

Burmese 'pressed to extradite drug king'

FROM JONATHAN MILLER IN BANGKOK

A WEEK after the surrender of the world's most wanted drugs baron, Khun Sa, there is still no indication that the Burmese authorities intend either to prosecute or extradite him — despite persistent urging by the United States.

The silence has fuelled suspicions that the opium warlord has made a deal with the corrupt Rangoon junta to secure his own freedom.

The Americans hold Khun Sa responsible for flooding the streets of US cities with more than 100 tonnes of top-grade heroin every year. In 1989 he was indicted in New York on drugs trafficking charges after an investigation by the US Drug Enforcement Administration. Now officials fear he may never be brought to book — despite the £1.3 million price they have placed on his head.

Last night, US diplomats in Bangkok could not confirm a Thai newspaper report that Washington would be formally requesting his extradition. Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) says that the country's 50-year-old extradition treaty with America no longer stands.

Winston Lord, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said in Bangkok at the weekend: "We would urge the Slorc to arrest and detain Khun Sa and to extradite him to the US." Mr Lord described him as one of the most notorious drugs traffickers in world, adding: "We are going to watch things very closely."

10,000 invited to Bombay wedding

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

THE Hinduja family, the world's richest Indians and the sixth richest Britons, have tied up Bombay today for a wedding. They have invited 10,000 guests, so that there is not a vacant hotel room in the nation's expensive, overcrowded financial capital.

The reception, catering for 6,000, will be attended by the Vice-President, a dozen or more Cabinet ministers, a clutch of Chief Ministers and assorted diplomats from Delhi. The invitation comes with a 48-page book, printed in London in colour, explaining the "essence of Vedic marriage for success and happiness".

This will be the new India on show, with its top layer of mega-rich presiding over a nation where 20 per cent of the people live on less than £7 a month and at least 400 million are illiterate. More than 500 Indians who live abroad will attend and not bring gifts: the family has made it clear it wants none. With wealth estimated at £850 million, that has surprised nobody.

The British-based Hindujas are marrying off three brothers simultaneously — Ajay, Ramakrishan and Dheeraj. A 24-hour control room and help desk have been set up to assist guests and the press. Food will be vegetarian and there will be no alcohol. The Hindujas have emphasised that the focus is on simplicity and conveying a sense of community, not on wealth.

Money-divided India is nowhere more evident than in Bombay, which has the world's highest rents and Asia's largest slum, Dharavi. Half the city's residents live in shacks: young men in open-topped BMWs cruise past them on their way to expensive nightclubs. There are fears that such vast disparities could destabilise one of the most steady Third World countries.

The Government is holding to the trickle-down theory of wealth, but so far the very poor have become even poorer under economic reforms launched nearly five years ago. This is evident at the government-subsidised "fair-price" shops, which sell wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and pulses at as little as half the commercial price.

Prices have nevertheless risen significantly in the past five years. The Government has announced new welfare measures but they will take a long time to reach their target. Some will never arrive because of creaking delivery systems and corrupt officials.



Unwelcome spotlight turned on Berlusconi as he faces corruption trial

*No one is writing off the former Prime Minister as he prepares to counter charges of corporate bribery, **Richard Owen** reports from Rome*

LAMBERTO DINI, the caretaker Prime Minister brought in a year ago to save Italy from chaos, faces an uncertain future himself this week following his latest reluctant resignation.

President Scalfaro today begins soundings on whether there is all-party support for a continuation of an interim Government, either led by Signor Dini or another stopgap leader, until June, when Italy ends its EU presidency.

Since the President is against early elections, the chances are that Signor Dini will soldier on. But he will do so with diminished authority, and waiting in the wings is the man who led the centre-right coalition which collapsed at the end of 1994, Silvio Berlusconi.

Signor Berlusconi, however, goes on trial in Milan on Wednesday on corruption charges. The television and property magnate, who moved with such flourish in early 1994 from global business to high politics to regenerate the Italian economy and clean up public life, does not have to appear but has said he will.

He burst on to the scene, creating his Forza Italia party from scratch in three months and sweeping to power in March 1994. He was the main beneficiary of the desire of Italians for an end to the corruption and instability which had been the hallmark of more than 50 postwar Christian Democrat-dominated Governments.

Doubts about Signor Berlusconi — his huge business empire, his control of television, his lack of political experience — were swept aside. When he fell in December 1994, however, it was not only because of disagreements among his coalition partners, but also because disillusion had set in.

If the anti-corruption drive was to be completed, many Italians thought, it would have to be done by a "technocratic" Government such as that led by Signor Dini, who came from the morally upright world of the central bank.

Yet no commentator is counting out Signor Berlusconi. Throughout the interim Dini Government he has hovered in the background, now demanding elections, now favouring a "broad coalition" to include himself.

The charges relate to three bribes given between 1989 and 1992 to the tax authorities to ensure favourable tax inspection of three subsidiaries of Signor Berlusconi's Fininvest.

There is no doubt that the payments were made. Paolo Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister's brother, has admitted as much. He and Salvatore Sciascia, the head of Fininvest's tax department, are also in the dock.

Signor Berlusconi's defence is that the bribes were a "rare and isolated episode" of which he had no personal knowledge. He depicts the investigation as a politically motivated act of malice inspired by Antonio de Pietro, the Milan magistrate who began the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive.

At the time, opinion polls showed that seven out of ten Italians thought he should stay in office. But then he overreached himself; he tried to use his prime ministerial powers to interfere in the proceedings. He also used his television channels to make his case and damn Signor de Pietro.

Many Italians still recall Signor Berlusconi's virtues: his energy, his free-market philosophy, his bold attempts to cut through the numerous regulations which hamper Italian business.

His aides pour scorn on the bribery charges, pointing out that his sheer wealth means he has no need to resort to backhanders.

But the more general charge levelled against Signor Berlusconi in retrospect, however, is that he failed to divest himself of his business empire while in high office, and so exposed himself to obvious conflicts of interest.

But he is still a towering figure, so much so that the heart of the matter at Milan will be whether it is plausible that he was unaware of financial skulduggery in his key companies. In the time-honoured formula, it is a question of what he knew and when he knew it.

Troops moved in for war of bluff with Chechens

Russia extends deadline for hostages' release

FROM CARLOTTA GALL OUTSIDE PERVOMAISKOYE, DAGESTAN, AND THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA has given Chechen rebels holding more than 100 hostages in a village on the Dagestan border until today to free them.

The ultimatum, issued last night, came after two earlier deadlines expired yesterday. The extension was made apparently to enable Moscow's top two security officials, Mikhail Barsukov, head of the federal security service, who is in overall charge of the operation, and Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, to arrive at the tense scene.

Earlier, officials said Chechen snipers had shot at troops surrounding them, wounding up to four. But the Russians did not return fire. The claim could not be confirmed independently.

The war of bluff between the Russian military and the 150 Chechen gunmen holding the hostages intensified yesterday when hundreds of special troops moved on the village of Pervomaiskoye, only to withdraw again. At nightfall, the Russians sent in more tanks and vehicles towards Pervomaiskoye after neighbouring villages were plunged into darkness as the electricity was cut off.

All the indications yesterday morning were that the Russian military was finally preparing to storm the village and to free the hostages by force. The latest estimates suggest there are 116 of them, mostly abducted from the hospital in Kizlyar, the town the fighters raided last Tuesday.

On Saturday night, Russian jets dropped flares on Pervomaiskoye throughout the night. At dawn yesterday, more than 200 special troops were seen stealthily moving through the fog towards the village. Behind them, orange-red smoke drifted across the fields. Many carried long-barrelled snipers' rifles.

Aleksandr Mikhailov, a spokesman for the intelligence service, said they had "enough force" to implement the mid-morning ultimatum to the gunmen to surrender.

However, if the show of force was intended to make the rebels back down, it seems not to have worked. At noon the special troops were driven out in buses, although a special field hospital set up outside the village remained. The Chechens continue to be defiant. Salman Raduyev, their leader, said he would "fight to the end". He was still insisting that a delegation of Moscow politicians and journalists accompany his men into Chechenia in return for the hostages' freedom.

"Now that we have been deceived and blocked in this village, and they are not allowing us to move anywhere, we no longer believe anyone and we all have got ready to die," he told a reporter from *Izvestia*.

In Moscow, Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party which topped last month's parliamentary elections, said he "did not understand" what the Government was up to. He said the crisis ought to be resolved successfully.

☐ **Bodies found:** Russian police are examining the possibility that the discovery of bodies of five Dagestanis on Friday in the Moscow region is linked to the Chechen separatist movement.

Among the dead was a four-year-old child, Tass reported. The bodies, all showing signs of violence, were found in the town of Kolomna, southeast of Moscow, on Friday. The body of a fifth man, carrying Dagestani papers, was also found the same day in nearby Andreivka. *(AFP)*

Strategy born of desperation

Moscow: The mass seizure of hostages by Chechen gunmen outside the borders of their republic is as much a sign of desperation as of their continuing strength (Thomas de Waal writes).

The main thrust of the strategy of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen President, appears to be that, if he cannot win the war, he can at least ensure that the Russians lose it, and has blessed a strategy of lightning raids inside Russia. "Now, with practically the whole of Chechenia destroyed, we have no option but to cross into your territory and destroy your towns and kill your people," General Dudayev told *Moskovsky Komsomolets* last week.

The rebels are still in control of the southern mountainous third of Chechenia, but have lost their capital, Grozny. Only a hard core of fighters remain with them.

The strategy shows no respect for civilian life or for the Chechens' Muslim neighbours in Dagestan, who have sheltered thousands of refugees.

General Dudayev freely admitted that the worse the situation was in Chechenia the better it was for him. "If they pull out, it will be much harder for me as President to rule the country," he said. He said he had no money to support the economy.



President Soares, who is bowing out after ten years, queues up to vote yesterday

Socialist triumph in Lisbon

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LISBON

JORGE SAMPAIO, the Socialist former Mayor of Lisbon, defeated Anibal Cavaco Silva, the former Prime Minister, in the election to succeed Mario Soares as President, state and private television stations reported last night.

According to exit polls released by SIC, Portugal's most popular channel, Senhor Sampaio, 56, a quiet-spoken lawyer, was poised to capture 59 per cent of the vote. Senhor Cavaco Silva, also 56, who steered Portugal through ten years of economic modernisation, was expected to win 41 per cent, the channel predicted. The state RTP television station projected 56-60 per cent for Senhor Sampaio and 40-44 per cent for Senhor Cavaco Silva.

The predicted result marked the end of an era for Portugal, with the disappearance from the political scene of its two dominant figures — Senhor Soares, the affable defender of civil rights and tolerance, and Senhor Cavaco Silva, the austere economist and technocrat.

A win by Senhor Sampaio also gives Portugal a head of state and an administration of the same political hue for the first time since the 1974 "Revolution of the Carnations" restored democracy. Since that time, voters had viewed the presidency as a counterweight, electing a head of state of a different persuasion to the dominant party in parliament.

Senhor Soares, first elected in 1986, kept Senhor Cavaco Silva's governments in check by his veto power and using his widespread popularity to influence public opinion. Constitutionally, yesterday's result was a clear reprimand for Senhor Cavaco Silva and a reversal of the 1991 legislative election results. That year, Senhor Cavaco Silva's Social Democrats won a landslide victory over Senhor Sampaio, then Socialist Party leader.

Defection talk adds to gloom for Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, looked distinctly unsteady at the weekend as rumours mounted of large-scale defections from his junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats.

Three Free Democrat deputies are on record as saying they will vote against the Government unless a date is set for tax cuts. Other Free Democrats are ready to join the rebellion. Since Herr Kohl has only a ten-seat majority — and since two of his Christian Democrat deputies are ill — he seems to be heading for trouble.

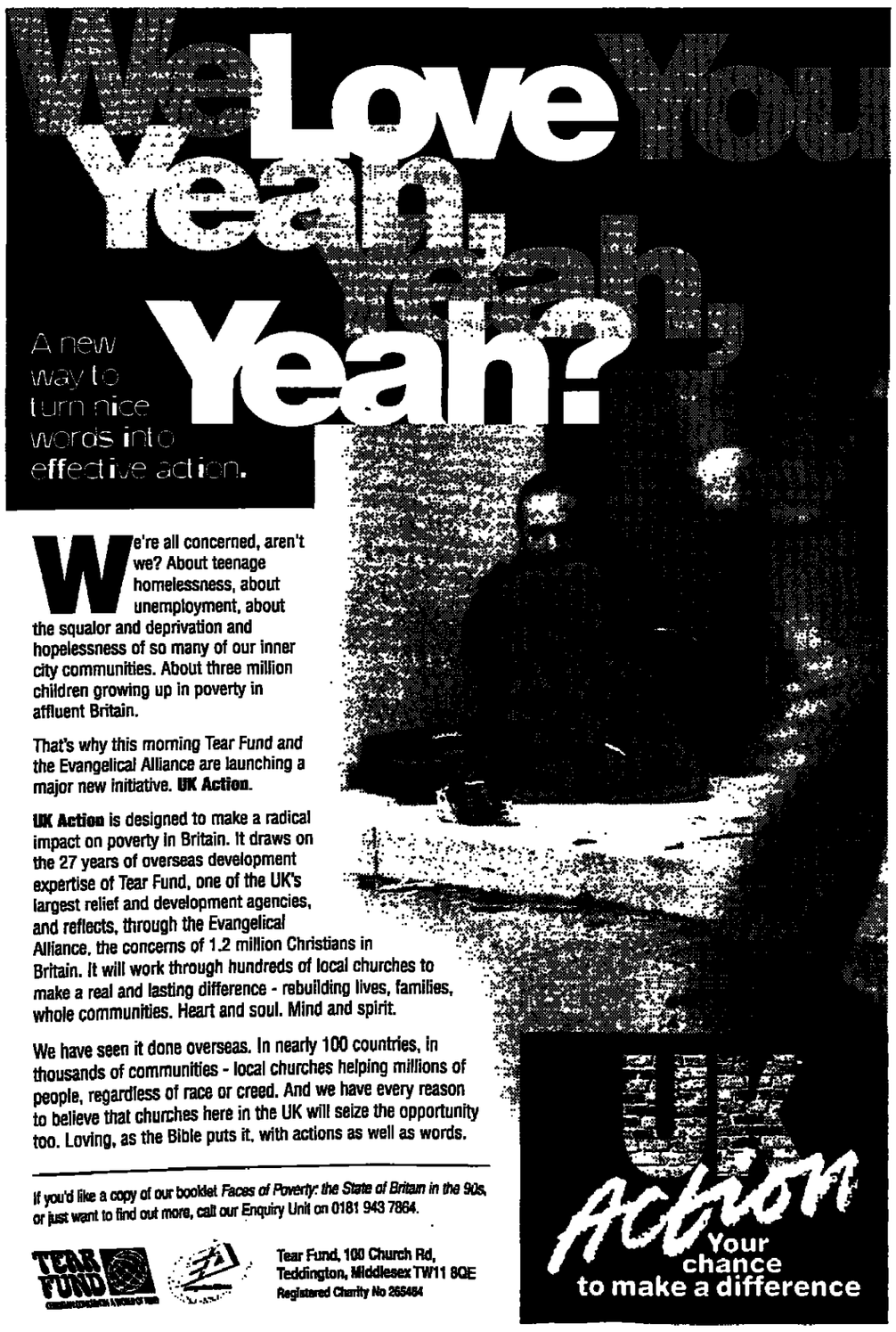
The most disturbing factor is the prospect of Free Democrats crossing the floor to join the Social Democrats. At least four names are being mentioned.

The tiny, ailing liberal Free Democrat Party may simply be engaged in brinkmanship. In March there are three critical regional elections and the party is recording dismal results in the latest opinion polls.

Political pundits say the defection talk is serious and that added to other problems — the slowdown in the economy and the rise in unemployment — Herr Kohl has drifted into one of his most awkward political crises since becoming Chancellor in 1982.

Certainly the Chancellor is looking distinctly rattled. He has given interviews emphasising that Germany is not on the brink of a recession and that the Free Democrats will stay in business.

After months of extraordinarily high popularity ratings — encouraging the Christian Democrats to believe they could stage early elections and sweep up an absolute majority — the Chancellor is on a slide. The federal deficit overshot the budgeted level by DM1.2 billion (£535 million), according to government statistics published at the weekend.



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Croat-Muslim feud in Mostar puts peace deal at risk

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON has warned the Croats not to endanger peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as concern grows over the violence and tension in the divided southern city of Mostar.

The Croats have been accused of deliberately stirring up trouble in the city, leading to fatal shootings this month, because of bitter opposition to the peace accord reached in Dayton, Ohio, under which Mostar is to be reunified.

Mr Clinton spoke to President Tudjman of Croatia in Zagreb on Saturday, and sought his help in keeping the Muslim/Croat Federation alive. The federation between the Muslims and Croats was signed in March 1994 and the peace accord states that Bosnia should be split between it and a Serb republic.

Mostar has become the focus of international attention because it is there that the federation appears to be most at risk and the peace accord depends on its survival. Mostar's eastern Muslim sector was destroyed by the Croats' most concentrated artillery barrage in the three and a half years of war.

Mr Clinton and Mr Tudjman agreed that Robert Owen, the American mediator for the federation, would go there to resolve the continuing ethnic conflict.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, who was in the city yesterday, spoke of Croat forces trying to disrupt the federation. He said: "We must bridge the hatred. The federation must not fail."

Reunification under Dayton is supposed to take place on Saturday. However, as the recent eruptions of violence have underlined, this city is still suffering from long-standing hatreds and feuds.

The Croat political figures in the area are among the most ultra-nationalist in Bosnia. They have always opposed the federation because it eclipses their power and destroys their ambition to turn Mostar into an ethnically pure capital of a Croat state.

East Mostar, home of 55,000 Muslims, was systematically attacked for ten months by the Croats who live on the other side of the Neretva river that divides the city. The Muslims have, however, always wanted Mostar to be multi-ethnic and, despite their sufferings, they back reunification.

Yesterday Herr Kinkel held talks with Mate Granic, the Croatian Foreign Minister, and Mohamed Sacirbey, his Bosnian counterpart. He also met Hans Koschnick, the German European Union administrator of Mostar, and the mayors and police chiefs of both parts of the city. Herr Koschnick is to present a report on the reunification in two weeks.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the American commander of the Nato-led Implementation Force, who was also in Mostar, said that an officer would be appointed to liaise between his troops and the EU administration. He said that he was ready to help to reconcile Muslims and Croats in the city, but he emphasised that it was a civilian, not a military, matter.



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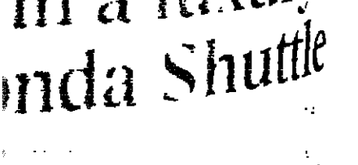
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RUGBY UNION



22
Brittle challenge forces RFU to retreat

CRICKET



23
England put to the sword in South Africa

FOOTBALL



25
The day Cantona lost his cutting edge

YACHTING

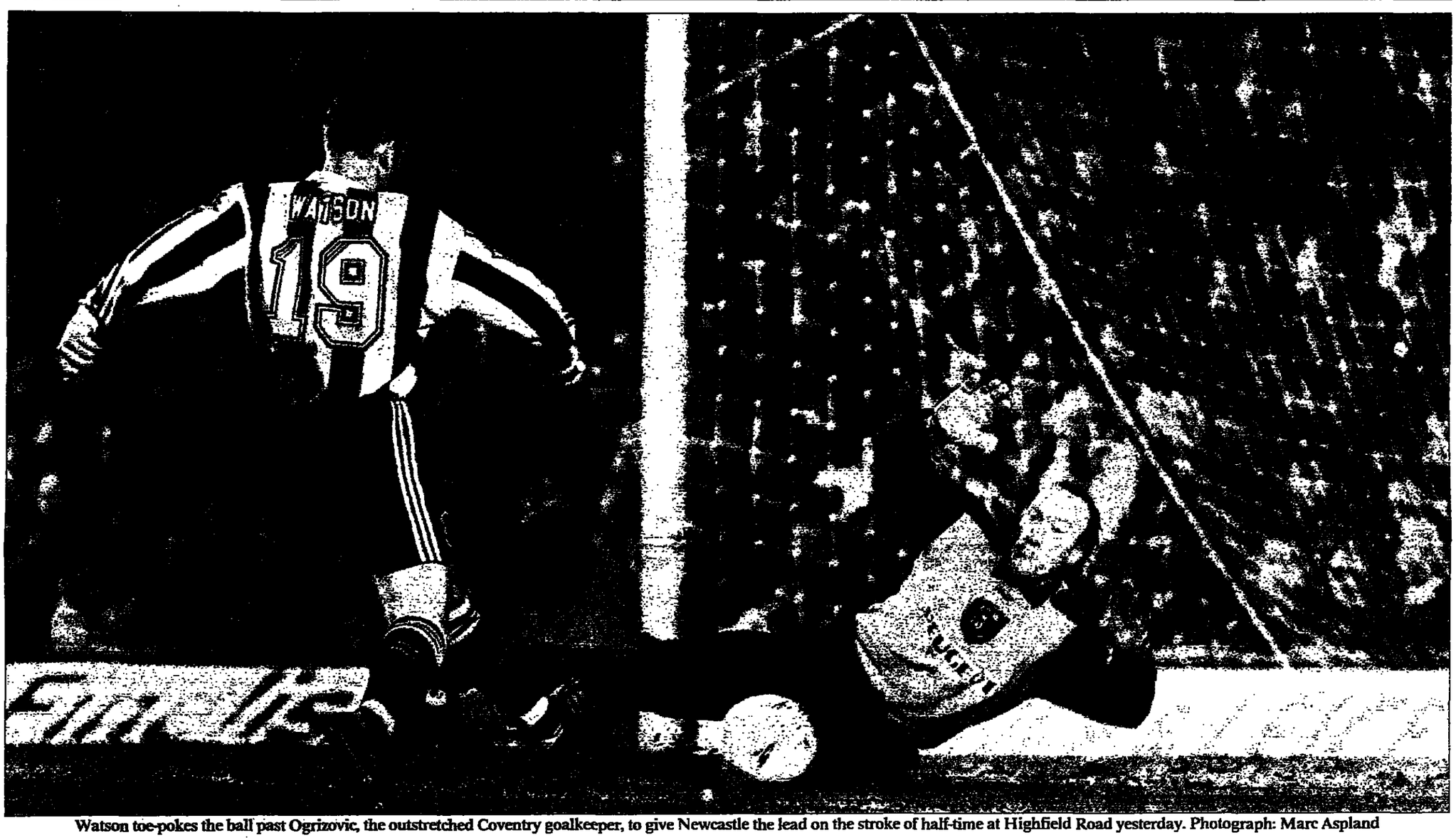


27
Plain sailing for a young contender

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 15 1996

PREMIERSHIP LEADERS GO NINE POINTS CLEAR



Watson toe-pokes the ball past Ogrizovic, the outstretched Coventry goalkeeper, to give Newcastle the lead on the stroke of half-time at Highfield Road yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Watson leads way home

Coventry City 0
Newcastle United 1

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

AFTER three months of travel sickness, Newcastle United steadied their stomachs with a timely dose of away points at Highfield Road yesterday. It was their first FA Carling Premiership victory away from Fortress St James for three months since November and, if not quite the sweetest medicine, the tonic to Newcastle's championship hopes was stout enough. The destiny of the championship is in their own hands. With a game in hand, Newcastle lead the Premiership by nine points.

The victory, earned by Salako's error and Watson's calmness moments before half-time, did little to suggest that the call of Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, for more inspiration had been answered positively; but the manner with which Newcastle went about their business put into perspective recent suggestions that they might not have the nerve for the fight.

Long gone was the cavalier spirit of the early days. This was time to roll up sleeves, time to dispense with imagination, rely on industry and, on a sandy pitch not ideal for the quick-passing game favoured by both managers, to hit and hope. "We got a bit lucky and, after that, it was all hands to the pump" was Keegan's pert summary. That the match was settled by a bad mistake rather than a piece of magic was an appropriate comment on a scrappy game. "A massive three points," Keegan added.

Only when Ndlovu went on for Telfer ten minutes from time did Coventry City look like penetrating Peacock and Albert at the centre of the Newcastle defence. For all the bustle of the newly revived Coventry, Srnicek had but one save to make, in the tenth minute, from Salako's long-range drive.

Though Ogrisovic was equally inactive for long patches, Newcastle gained in composure after a hesitant start and, if Beardsley had not miskicked a presentable chance in the second half, the margin of victory would have been wider.

Beardsley, though, remained the one link with the pre-Christmas Newcastle. His tireless running, probing and tackling put Ferdinand, his ambling partner at the front, to shame. Ferdinand had one chance, late in the game, but took a second too long to control Watson's early cross. Otherwise, he seemed hampered by an injury to his left leg that required treatment within the first quarter.

TOP OF THE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Newcastle U	22	15	3	3	43	18	51
Manchester U	23	12	6	5	41	27	42

The Newcastle bandwagon had begun to roll in late summer with a handsome victory over Coventry at St James' Park and, until a month ago, the prospect of a return would have hardly filled Keegan's men with foreboding.

However, a combination of Coventry's recent improvement, one defeat in their past six matches, and Newcastle's desultory away form, allied to a belief expressed by Arsenal in midweek that the Premiership leaders do not "like it up 'em", had invested yesterday with wider significance.

Not the least of the men on show was Peter Jones, the referee. Would he afford Ginola the protection that the Frenchman had so markedly lacked when he was sent off by Gerald Ashby at Highbury? The answer, happily for all but the Coventry supporters, was encouraging.

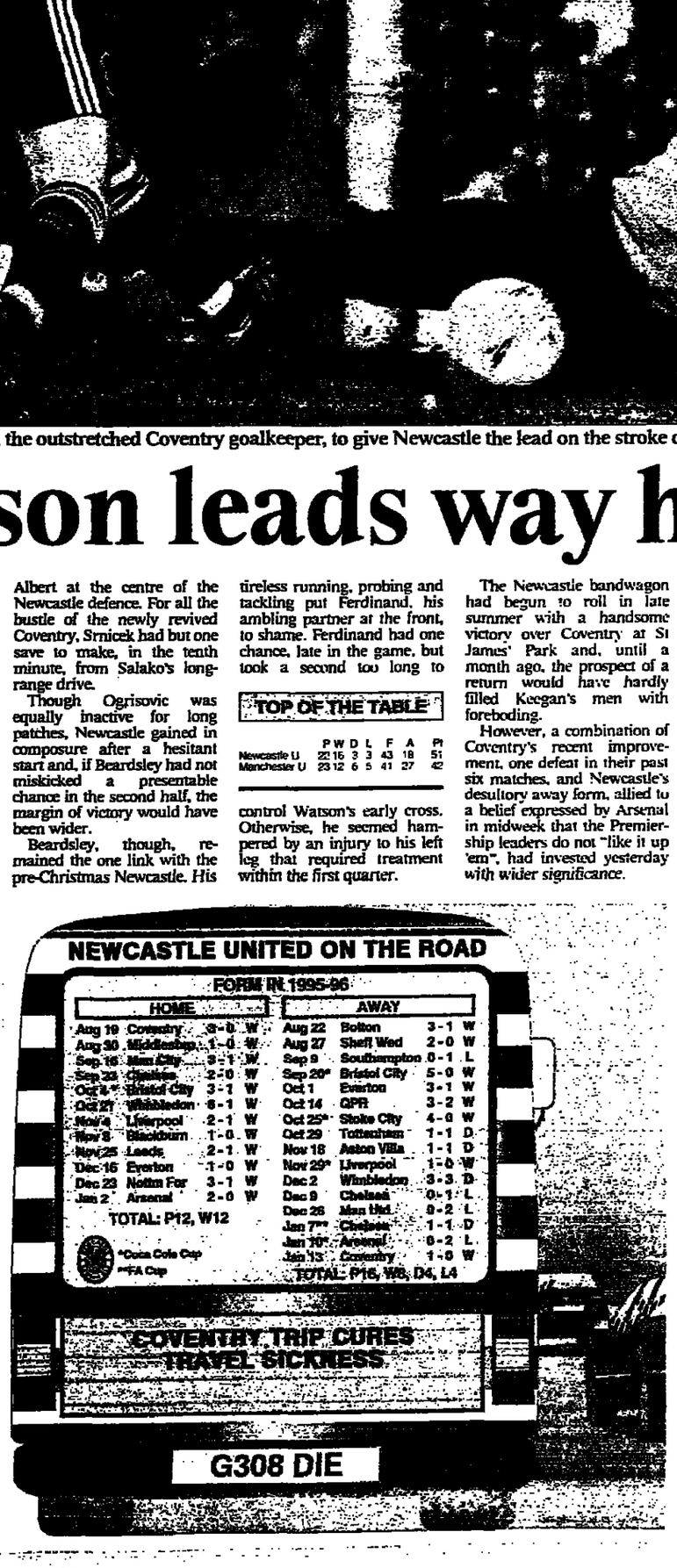
Unlike Ashby, Jones could spot the forgery a mile away, and an early piece of theatricals by Ginola brought a look of disdain and a call to play on. When Pickering did catch up with his tormentor, from behind, Jones rightly reached straight for the book.

Not that the supporters let Ginola off lightly. He was jeered for every touch. What a jamboree the European championships will be. Whole teams of foreigners to bait.

Mindful of the threat of Dublin and the pace of Salako, Keegan reverted to the trusted 4-4-2 with Watson on the right of midfield. Coventry countered by pushing up quickly at the back and hitting early balls for Whelan and Dublin to chase. Harried in midfield, they were compressed at the front and, with Ferdinand almost a passenger, surprisingly short on attacking options.

It took a touch of nonchalance and a slice of luck to bring Newcastle the decisive goal just a minute before half-time. In trying to volley a long cross clear, Salako just dropped the ball into the path of Watson, who waltzed past Hall and toe-poked the ball past Ogrizovic. Not the prettiest of goals, but devastating for the home side, nonetheless.

COVENTRY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — A Pickering, P Shaw, D Busst, M Hall — P Telfer (P Ndlovu 80), P Williams, K Richardson, J Salako — D Dublin, N Whelan
NEWCASTLE: (4-4-2) P Srnicek — W Barton, P Albert, D Peacock, J Beresford — S Watson, P Ferdinand, D Clark, D Ginola — A Beardsley, L Fairclough
Referee: P Jones



Venables backed for technical vacancy

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TERRY VENABLES may not yet be lost to the England cause, despite his apparently acrimonious split with several senior figures within the Football Association. The departing national coach emerged yesterday as a surprise contender for the role of technical director to the English game.

Venables has suggested that he made the decision to stand down because he failed to solicit adequate support from key members of the FA's international committee, mainly Noel White, the chairman, and Ian Stott, a member of the three-man sub-committee that appointed him.

Yesterday, however, Stott offered the backing that Venables seems to desire by suggesting that he has his total support as a candidate for the new position of technical director. Such backing is significant because Stott is also a member of the FA's technical control board, which will make the appointment.

Stott said: "I do feel that Terry may not need to be lost to English football. My own view is that he would be a likely candidate for the director of coaching position. I feel we should consider this, when the dust is settled, as a way of putting Terry's experience to future use."

New ball game, page 16

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Interactive cricket is a wheeze for Gatting



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

When even Charles Colvile sounds depressed, you know that there must be something seriously wrong with English cricket. "So goodbye from Centurion Park," Colvile, his spirits lower than Mark Ramprakash's batting average, said. "At least it didn't rain."

It was clear that Bob Willis's efforts to cheer him up had failed. No great surprise there — being cheered up by Willis is a bit like sharing a wet thistle field with Eeyore — but at least the former England captain had tried.

Faced with a co-commentator who, after two defeats in two days, looked like he would never again scream "big appeal!", Willis dug deep. "If the England management could just make a few tough decisions, they can still win the series 4-3, Charles, and go off in high spirits to the World Cup." Colvile looked doubtful.

He had every reason to. For there seems no end to the one-way sporting traffic beamed back by satellite from South Africa. First, we watched them win the rugby on ITV. Then, we watched them win the Test series on Sky, a triumph that they look likely to seal (Willis miracles apart) by winning the one-day internationals. In three weeks' time, if we watch them pick up the African Nations' Cup on Eurosport... well, nobody will be in the least bit surprised.

Small wonder that South Africans have had to quickly adapt to enjoying their sporting triumphs two at a time. At one point on Saturday afternoon, a huge cheer went round the Wanderers. With the home side at 73 for four, this seemed a touch premature — until Colvile intervened — "South Africa are now three up against Cameroon." There went my plans for Saturday night. Still, there is plenty more football to come on Eurosport; perhaps Archie Macpherson could reveal the cricket scores in revenge.

For the game yesterday, Michael Atherton gave himself the day off. In the Sky commentary box, there were one or two voices that sounded like they needed a day off, too. Ian Botham, for instance, who started the tour so well, has become positively taciturn.

Like everyone else, they have been trying to guess England's World Cup squad, but with little agreement. "If it came down to Smith or Stewart, Ian ..." "It won't come down to that, Charles." "But if it did?" "It won't." Undeterred, Colvile moved on to Smith or Hick: who was the better all-rounder? "Well, Robin Smith doesn't bowl."

It is tempting to blame Colvile for these awkward exchanges, but that would be unfair. I suspect that, for the ever-competitive Botham, it is a case of only singing when he is winning. If he is serious about commentary, he needs to learn how to share the burden a little more equally and to brighten things up a bit. Either David Gower or Mark Nicholas would be able to point him in the right direction.

Perhaps Sky should have sent Botham off with Paul Allott for a rest-cure at the World Masters Cricket series in Sharjah. In fact, given the cricketing talent in the Sky box (even Colvile made it to the Surrey second XI), perhaps it should have entered a team.

The results in the Emirates were much the same as they have been in South Africa — Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge put on 137 for the first wicket in West Indies' eight-wicket defeat of England in the final — but everyone seemed to be having a lot more fun.

A particular highlight was a microphone link that allowed the commentary team to talk to Mike Gatting, the England captain, while he was fielding. Between puffs, pants and the jangle of his wedding ring ("sorry, I've got it on a necklace"), Gatting kept Michael Holding, the commentator, fully up with the game. Suddenly, John Emburey stemmed the wholesale destruction with a maiden over. "What's happening?" Holding asked. "I dunno," Gatting replied from gully. "I'll just go and ask Dessie."

He did: "Dessie, you suddenly decided you're going to block?" Interactive cricket had arrived. Let us hope it leaves, sharpish.

Doyle facing battle to keep presidency

THE British Cycling Federation (BCF) faces a presidential crisis only five weeks after Tony Doyle was elected successor to Ian Emmerson (Peter Bryan writes). On Saturday, the BCF executive board of directors asked Doyle to resign as president after a vote of no confidence in him. The board has also called an emergency national council meeting in March, "to debate the president's future", and has appointed Colin Clews as acting chairman.

Last night, Doyle said: "I remain president and do not recognise the appointment of Colin Clews as chairman. I am utterly determined to complete my term of office." The BCF asked Doyle to resign after "questioning his honesty and integrity to carry out the duties of president and properly represent the federation and its members".

Amateur sides triumph

RUGBY LEAGUE: Two amateur sides will, for the first time, take their place in the draw for the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup today (Christopher Irvine writes). When the names of the championship and first division clubs go into the hat, they will be joined by those of West Hull and Thatto Heath.

In winning 35-20 at Highfield yesterday, West Hull emulated Beverley, who last season became the first amateur side in 86 years to eliminate professional opposition. Ironically, Highfield were the victims that day, too. Thatto Heath accounted for Chorley, 27-12.

Hair under attack

CRICKET The Australian Cricket Board said yesterday that it would consider a complaint by Sri Lanka about the Australian umpire, Darrell Hair. Sri Lanka's dissatisfaction with Hair — the first umpire to call Muttiah Muralitharan, the off-spinner, for throwing — came to a head after their 83-run World Series Cup defeat by Australia on Friday. Yesterday, Sri Lanka beat West Indies by 16 runs.

Blundell switches track



MOTOR RACING: Mark Blundell, right, is following the course set by Nigel Mansell by switching from Formula One to IndyCar racing. Blundell, who was unfortunate not to be offered grand prix drives at Sauber-Ford or Tyrrell Yamaha for the coming season, has signed for the PacWest racing group to compete in the 1996 World Series.

Thompson tunes up

HOCKEY: The Great Britain men's team concluded a successful training weekend at Bisham Abbey with a 5-1 victory over Malaysia yesterday, Robert Thomson scoring a hat-trick (Sydney Friskin writes). This followed a 1-0 win over the same rivals the previous day. The team leaves tomorrow for the Olympic qualifying tournament that starts in Barcelona on Friday.

Sheffield's steely grip

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers moved three points clear at the top of the premier division after a 9-3 home victory over Durham Wasps on Saturday. Durham led 2-0 after the first period, but Sheffield then took charge, winning the second period 5-0 and the third 4-1. Firm handling by Dan Emerson, the Canadian referee, ensured that there was no repetition of the recent animosity between the teams.

Wimbledon record

RUGBY UNION: Wimbledon won 18-6 away to Old Reigatians on Saturday to set a Courage Clubs Championship record of 26 consecutive matches without defeat and take over the leadership of London II South. They were last beaten on December 4, 1993, 5-3 by Raynes Park, their local rivals, and have won all their league matches since while progressing through Surrey I and London III South West.

English rugby in disarray after junior clubs reject elite way forward

Brittle takes chair as members revolt

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) did not have a crisis of leadership before yesterday, it has one now. The members turned on the executives in Birmingham yesterday by rejecting their nominee as chairman and the union's special general meeting broke up in disarray.

The RFU's response to the declaration of an open game by the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) was firmly rejected. What became an increasingly militant meeting was fuelled by inadequate handling of the whole debate and a cap was placed on the union's humiliation when Cliff Brittle, from Staffordshire, polled 647 votes against the 332 cast in favour of John Jeavons-Fellows, the executive committee's own nominee.

The union will now be forced to reconvene within the next six weeks and to stage a meeting devoted to one single principle: whether rugby in England is prepared to accept an open game or whether it will insist upon retaining amateurism. If the latter, then a split becomes virtually inevitable, so far have England's leading clubs prepared themselves for professionalism. If the mood of the meeting is taken to extremes, then the RFU — which is now paying its own international players — would have little option but to resign from the IRFB.

The afternoon became an exercise in contradiction after the club representatives accepted the deletion of the word "amateur" from the game's regulations — having received an assurance that they could subsequently make their own rules to promote amateurism. Yet speakers from the floor then made it perfectly apparent that the one issue upon which they sought debate was that of amateurism against professionalism.

With Bill Bishop, the RFU president, struggling desperately to control events, David Hiles, the secretary of Pinner and Grammarians and a former trade union official, took the stand to declare: "I have never been to such a shambles as this. I think everyone who came here believed it would be an historic occasion and now all we have is an enabling process."

At his instigation, debate on the RFU commission report was deferred in favour of a general discussion on the way forward once the RFU has collected the results of a questionnaire on the main points raised by the commission.

Afterwards, Bishop and Tony Hallett, the secretary of the RFU, admitted that they had misjudged the mood of rugby clubs around the country. "The general view had seemed to be in line with the commission views," Bishop said. At one stage, he told the meeting that they had no confidence in the chair, and it was hard to disagree.

Ironically, the success of Brittle, 54 and generally perceived as the nominee of rugby's middle England, places the whole debate in his hands. He must now take his place at the head of an executive committee which chose not to vote for him, though he denied that this would pose problems. "I ask them to search their consciences and I hope we can pull together," he said.

"I know exactly what the role should be. It's impossible that England should vote to retain amateurism.

"I have spoken to people around the country and there is an overwhelming desire to accept what the international board announced in August. The general membership of this union will accept the seamless game."

That conclusion was not always apparent yesterday. Any goodwill for the RFU that existed among the 800 club delegates was lost after a saga of unnecessary expressions of support for the two candidates for the chairmanship was followed by an hour-long break while voting took place.



Brittle, the new RFU chairman, in Birmingham yesterday. Photograph: Russell Sach

Stirred by John Burgess, a former RFU president, who called for England to control its own destiny regardless of the IRFB diktat, the floor came to gain control.

Tim Lord, representing the Honourable Artillery Company and whose MP father, Michael, was responsible for a nationwide poll of clubs over amateurism, gained applause when he proposed that the RFU debate, in open forum, "whether 100 years will be tossed aside. The essential issue is whether the game becomes open or not."

This was so clearly the issue dearest to the hearts of club representatives that the RFU's failure to detect it became embarrassing. "It's the future of the game that is paramount, not the winning or losing the chairmanship," Brittle said. That future appears now to be more concerned with the past.

Weekend rugby, page 28

Top clubs aiming to match limited success

THE deteriorating relationship between the top clubs in Scotland and the Scottish Rugby Union is set to worsen with the news that Peter Wheeler, the chairman of English First Division Rugby Limited, and Gareth Davies, the chief executive of Cardiff, are to address the ten senior sides north of the border in Edinburgh tomorrow (Mark Souster writes).

The clubs are determined to be involved in the future direction of the domestic game; Wheeler and Davies will outline their experiences, which include the formation of limited companies in England and Wales to provide a strong voice for clubs.

Keith Robertson, the director of rugby at Melrose, one of the prime movers behind the push for club, not district, representation in Europe, said that forming a company in Scotland was not on the agenda, but he expected closer ties between clubs in future.

"I expect we will form a group, and there will be differences of opinion, but that doesn't mean top clubs should not have a strong say in the direction of the game in Scotland," he said.

☐ Scott Hastings is expected to play against Ireland in Dublin on Saturday despite missing Scotland's squad session at Murrayfield this weekend with a bruised right knee.

☐ John Manson, the Stirling County and Scotland prop, has been banned until May 12 for being sent off for North and Midlands in the inter-district championship.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Lech	40	80	good	fair	worn	sun	2	8/1
	(Still good skiing at higher altitudes)							
St Anton	10	135	fair	heavy	worn	fine	1	8/1
	(Mid and upper runs still reasonable; Kapall rocky)							
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	100	135	good	varied	good	fine	-1	7/1
	(Good piste skiing under sunny skies)							
La Tania	50	65	icy	varied	closed	fine	-1	7/1
	(Icy pistes in most areas until softened by sun)							
Tignes	75	130	good	varied	good	fine	-3	12/1
	(Good piste skiing; some powder still available)							
Val d'Isère	70	150	good	heavy	worn	fair	3	12/1
	(All main areas good; some stones low down)							
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	30	50	good	varied	fair	fine	-2	8/1
	(Colder weather and excellent grooming; good skiing)							
Verbier	75	110	fair	varied	worn	sun	-3	7/1
	(Good on upper slopes; icy/rocky lower down)							
Villars	10	80	fair	moguls	closed	fine	3	7/1
	(No change in conditions; best snow above 1,800 metres)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

DISCOVERY DATA: FASTEST ROADCAR: McLAREN F1: 235mph

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Open favourites do little to justify their top billing

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

A SENSE of disorder fell across the eve of the Australian Open. Yesterday, the men's favourite was beaten in an exhibition match, the women's favourite almost lost in straight sets in the final of a tournament in Sydney and the longest recorded spell of cool summer weather here came to a spectacular end.

The temperature, which for 35 successive days had not reached 30 degrees, exploded up to an oppressive 40 degrees as Pete Sampras completed his preparations. The holder of the Wimbledon and US Open titles formed, with Stefan Edberg, the centrepiece of the traditional open day staged at Flinders Park for charity.

Sampras, the victim of influenza, arrived belatedly in Australia and has taken part in only a couple of matches. Neither was competitive and their significance should not be overestimated, but he was first deflated by Boris Becker in Kooyong, then by Edberg.

Between those defeats, he was described by Andre Agassi as playing on a higher plane than everybody else. Yet Sampras's status as the world No 1 will be threatened over the next fortnight, not only by his American colleague but also by Thomas Muster.

The computer points to be gained for success in grand slam championships have rightly been increased and Sampras and Agassi, the runner-up and winner, respectively, last year, have more to lose retrospectively (the best 14 results over the preceding year are considered) than Muster. He lasted only until the third round.

Uncharacteristically, Muster chose not to practise. The heat was considered excessive, not only overhead but also from media representatives seeking confirmation of a supposed friendship with the Duchess of York. Ronnie Leitgeb, his coach, said on his behalf that the pair had merely talked on the flight from Qatar to Sydney.

There, Monica Seles was a point away from going down to a 19-year-old who turned professional only two months before Seles was stabbed in 1993. Since she returned last August, she has submitted only in the final of the US Open, to Steffi Graf, now absent through injury.

Only two others — Jana Novotna, another missing from the field, and Anke Huber — had taken a set off her. Yesterday, Seles was outmanoeuvred by Lindsay Davenport before recovering to collect the 34th title of her career, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

A trio of British entrants have been spared the ordeal of competing on the opening day, when the mercury is expected to rise even higher. All three face, for the first time, figures whose name will be dauntingly familiar.

Greg Rusedski takes on Becker, the No 4 seed. He was the champion in 1991 but, remarkably, has since failed to win a match here. Tim Henman meets Petr Korda, who is on his way back towards the world's top 20, having opened the year by winning in Qatar. Clare Wood came through the qualifying competition but received scant reward by being drawn against Conchita Martinez, the No 2 seed.

According to the seedings, the last eight men should line up as Sampras v Thomas Enqvist, Becker v Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Michael Chang v Muster and Jim Courier v Agassi. The quarter-finals in the women's competition should feature Seles v Iva Majoli, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario v Gabriela Sabatini, Kimiko Date v Mary Pierce and Huber v Martinez.

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Sad Syed is left cursing his luck

BY RICHARD EATON

WHILE Lisa Lomas qualified for Atlanta with her seventh win of the Olympic qualifying event in Manchester on Saturday, Matthew Syed, England's other leading table tennis player, missed it by the width of a ball and by the opinion of the Italian referee, who reinstated Zoltan Batorfi, his opponent, from Hungary, just as he was about to be disqualified by the Austrian umpire.

Batorfi, 19, had allegedly been abusing the Austrian official in German, but Antonella Flori, the referee, felt insufficiently sure about precise translations to impose upon him so drastic a punishment. Batorfi, who was 6-11 down in the final game at the time, recovered to win 23-21, 21-18, 15-21, 20-22, 21-19.

A controversial fourth game saw Chen Xinhua, the Great Britain coach, given a red card for illegal coachingand Syed reach game point with a shot that the umpire thought touched an edge but the Hungarians believed hit the side of the table. After a long dispute, the decision stood.

"The Hungarians called Matt a cheat which was completely out of order," Donald Parker, the Britain captain, said. "Three times, Bartofi had edges in the final game, so Matt was unlucky."

Results, page 30

Chaloner's stamina secures final place

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE improved form that took Mark Chaloner from relative obscurity to a world team squash title at the end of last year was sustained at Edgbaston Priory in Birmingham yesterday when he produced another courageous performance to defeat Del Harris, the No 2 seed, and reach the final of the QM national championship.

In a 94-minute semi-final, Chaloner, who played third string behind Harris in the England side that captured their first title in the world team championship in Cairo in November, fought back from 3-0 down in the fifth game to win 6-9, 9-5, 9-0, 3-9, 9-5.

Harris, twice the British champion while a teenager and recently back at the top of his game at 26, judged himself capable of winning for a third time in Birmingham despite a worrying groin strain.

That confidence appeared well-placed as Harris survived a 23-minute opening game of extraordinary early-ball aggression. He dropped the third game in just 12 minutes, but dominated the fourth and advanced to 3-0 early in the fifth.

At that point, Harris asked for time to change his court shoes, which had become saturated with perspiration after 76 minutes of frantic effort. However, he will almost certainly look back on the decision as an error of judgment.

"I am leaving wet marks all over the floor," Harris said at the time. Yet he had also been leaving his opponent gasping in a condition that Chaloner could only describe later as "knackered". By the time that the shoe-change was complete, however, Chaloner, the younger man at 23, had recovered.

It was Chaloner who forced the pace in the next rally, pressuring a backhand error from an opponent who earlier had repeatedly retrieved similar shots at full length in the back-court and scrambled up to cover the subsequent drop in a front corner.

Now, it was Harris, whose outrageous shot-play had taken him to the point of execution before the shoe-change, who began to fire balls into the tin. Another critical point came with a let appeal from Chaloner high on his backhand at 5-4 down. Harris insisted that it was beyond his opponent's reach, but Tony Parker, the referee, decided that the situation was worth a penalty stroke to Chaloner.

From 5-5, Chaloner turned the screw, killing any hope of a last counter-attack with a long precision drop on the backhand for game-ball and then bringing a tired backhand return from Harris that drooped into the tin.

Results 30

هكذا من الأصل

صكذا من الاهل

Weekend of double defeat exposes limitations of much-vaunted World Cup challenge

England left with lofty ambition in tatters

FROM SIMON WILDE IN PRETORIA

PRETORIA (England won toss): South Africa beat England by seven wickets

ENGLAND'S ambitions of winning the cricket World Cup were left looking remote and foolish yesterday as they were beaten with ridiculous ease by a South Africa side that they had confidently regarded as inferior. They can assume so no longer, albeit that South Africa are not ideally suited to the limited-overs game.

South Africa's main problem is that their batsmen are too inhibited and lacking in imagination — or at least that was the theory until England's bland and innocuous attack yesterday encouraged them to think in a new light.

England were defending a total of 272, a good but unexceptional score on a perfect batting pitch at Centurion Park, and it ought to have been enough for them at least to stay in the match until the death.

Yet they lost with 12 balls to spare and it was distressingly clear from early in the South Africa innings, as Hudson and Kirsten raced to 50 in the eleventh over, that only one team was going to win. England simply failed to bowl to their field-settings and served up too many "four" balls.

Cork, whose absence on Saturday was supposedly a fair excuse for England's defeat in Johannesburg, was profligate in his determination to attack when frugality might have brought its rewards; Illingworth, ostensibly the leading slow bowler, went for 65 runs in nine overs in his first match for 16 days. These two are supposedly key elements in England's World Cup plans.

So, too, is White, judging by his presence in every match so far in this seven-match series, which England now trail 3-1. Yet he bowled without rhythm or confidence and cast a miserable figure, wearing the puzzled frown of one for whom the game has become unfathomably difficult.

DeFreitas and Gough, who delivered the only maiden over of the innings, bowled with more discipline and the latter posed dangers. He had one convincing appeal for leg-before turned down against Hudson, whom he later dismissed to break an opening partnership of 156 in 29 overs, but otherwise there was no semblance of lost opportunity. Of the leading bowlers, only Martin was missing.

Hudson scored 72 from 85 balls, Kirsten, who was a crabbed stonewaller in the Test series, a crackling 116 from 125 balls. Left out on Saturday, he was determined to stake his claim to a place in the side and did so with the highest score of his one-day career.

Cronje also put England to the sword, for the first time on this tour, thumping 47 from 46 balls before holing out to Thorpe on the long-on boundary off Illingworth, whom he had just hit there for six.

Thorpe completed the catch inches from the rope and umpire Diedricks interpreted Thorpe's nervous glance at his feet as evidence that he had stepped over the boundary, but reversed his decision after consulting the third umpire.

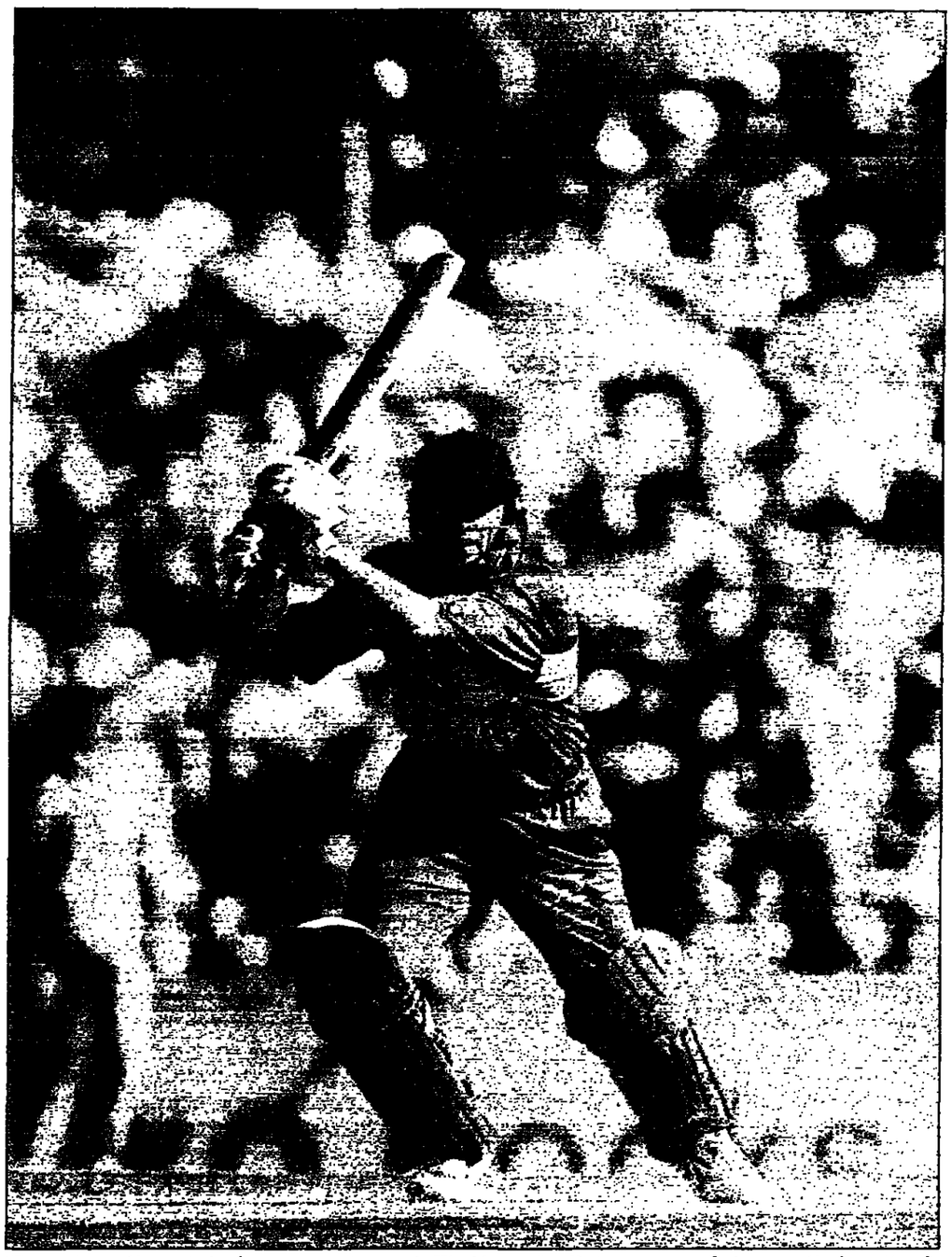
The charitable view would be that England were tired, although South Africa looked as fresh as daisies; that they played below par because Atherton left himself out and handed the captaincy to Stewart, which, if true, is unforgivable. Whatever the reason, it was their second soulless performance of the weekend, with England electing to bat twice when both times they would have done better to field.

It is highly unlikely that England will come back to win the remaining three matches to win this series. Their chances may not have been improved by South Africa's decision to call into their squad Fanie de Villiers, who knows a thing or two about taking wickets, and Lance Klusener, an all-rounder. McMillan, who has a slight groin strain, and Boje have been stood down.

After Stewart and Smith had got them off to an excellent start with a first-wicket stand of 103 in 23 overs, England lost their way when Hick, Thorpe and Smith were out to loose shots. Ramprakash and White were left to a costly regrouping exercise and it needed some delightful hitting from Russell to lift the total to what ought to have been a challenging level.

Whatever happened subsequently, the way that Ramprakash and Russell batted was only for the good. Ramprakash, having reacquainted himself with runmaking the previous day, equalled his highest one-day score for England and showed touches of class.

Before this weekend, Russell had missed 49 one-day internationals, dating back to May 1991, on the assumption that he could not bat. His response, this weekend, was to score 57 runs from 31 balls and England are now seriously considering whether their best team should contain him and Stewart. Perhaps there are other characters whom the management should be re-assessing.



Kirsten drives Gough to the boundary on his way to 116 at Centurion Park yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

SCOREBOARD FROM CENTURION PARK

England won toss

ENGLAND

*A J Stewart c Cullinan b Symcox (86min, 78 balls, 1 six, 8 fours)	64
R A Smith c Symcox b Donald (134min, 90 balls, 6 fours)	63
G A Hick b Cronje (18min, 17 balls, 2 sixes)	21
G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symcox (17min, 18 balls, 2 fours)	15
M R Ramprakash c Kallis b Donald (54min, 44 balls, 1 six)	32
C White c Donald b Cronje (38min, 30 balls, 1 four)	19
†R C Russell not out (30min, 19 balls, 6 fours)	39
D G Cork c Richardson b Matthews (4min, 2 balls)	0
P A J DeFreitas c Cullinan b Donald (5min, 3 balls)	2
D Gough not out (4min, 1 ball)	1
Extras (lb 5, w 10, nb 1)	16
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs, 204min)	272

R K Illingworth did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-103 (Smith 35), 2-139 (Smith 49), 3-168 (Smith 58), 4-174 (Ramprakash 91), 5-216 (Ramprakash 131), 6-245 (Russell 15), 7-249 (Russell 19), 8-260 (Russell 28).

BOWLING: Matthews 10-0-48-1 (nb 1, w 1, 6-0-19-0, 2-0-6-0, 2-0-23-1); Pollock 10-1-36-0 (6-1-16-0, 2-0-11-0, 2-0-9-0); Cronje 10-0-57-2 (w 1; 2-0-5-0, 6-0-33-1, 2-0-9-1); Donald 9-0-72-3 (nb 1, w 3, 3-0-30-0, 4-0-19-1, 2-0-23-2); Symcox 10-1-48-2 (w 5, one spell); Kirsten 1-0-6-0 (one spell).

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson lbw b Gough (110min, 85 balls, 2 sixes, 7 fours)	72
G Kirsten b Cork (162min, 125 balls, 11 fours)	116
*W J Cronje c Thorpe b Illingworth (64min, 46 balls, 2 sixes, 3 fours)	47
D J Cullinan not out (29min, 21 balls, 2 fours)	25
J H Kallis not out (16min, 13 balls, 2 fours)	14
Extras (w 2)	2
Total (3 wkts, 48 overs, 192min)	276

J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, †D J Richardson, P L Symcox, C R Matthews and A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-156 (Kirsten 82), 2-223 (Cronje 33), 3-247 (Cullinan 10).

BOWLING: Cork 10-0-65-1 (nb 1, w 1, 4-0-24-0, 2-0-17-0, 4-0-24-1); DeFreitas 10-0-46-0 (6-0-27-0, 4-0-19-0); Gough 10-1-41-1 (6-1-21-0, 2-0-9-1, 2-0-11-0); Hick 3-0-17-0 (w 1, one spell); Illingworth 9-0-65-1 (nb 1; 5-0-29-0, 4-0-36-1); White 6-0-42-0 (2-0-18-0, 4-0-24-0).

South Africa won by seven wickets.

Match award: G Kirsten

Umpires: W Diedricks and K E Liebenberg.

Referee: C W Smith (West Indies)

SERIES DETAILS

Jan 9: Cape Town: South Africa won by six runs.
Jan 11: Bloemfontein: England won by five wickets.
Jan 13: Johannesburg: South Africa won by three wickets.
Jan 14: Pretoria: South Africa won by seven wickets.

MATCHES TO COME

Jan 17: Durban (day/night)
Jan 19: East London (day/night)
Jan 21: Port Elizabeth

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Pollock gives weak attack an exhibition

FROM SIMON WILDE

JOHANNESBURG (England won toss): South Africa beat England by three wickets

THAT England lost the third one-day international at the Wanderers on Saturday was not itself of great significance. What was more important — and has attracted criticism from both within and outside the England camp — was their apparent disregard for, and unprofessionalism in, the showpiece game of the series.

The South African authorities were surprised and disappointed, to say the least, that England should have fielded a relatively weak and inexperienced team for a match played in front of a capacity crowd of 30,000, guaranteed to be the largest of the series, and with the sides level at one win each.

The five changes that England made weakened the batting slightly and the bowling severely. To assist DeFreitas, an established player at this type of cricket, in typical Wanderers conditions that offered movement off the pitch and in the air was a trio of fast-medium bowlers lacking confidence and form: Gough, Reeve and White.

The specialist spinner was Watkinson, who had not played a one-day match for England before, although there was a strong case for not playing one at all. South Africa relied on the best all-seam attack at their disposal.

Had Cork and Martin played, England might have competed, but only if their presence had inspired colleagues to raise their game to a higher level than they achieved on Saturday. England would also have helped their cause if Michael Atherton had chosen to field rather than bat. Hansie Cronje said that he would certainly have fielded first had Atherton called incorrectly.

Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, had some harsh words to say and many of them were directed towards Gough, whose first over was a disgrace. He began it by spraying balls down the leg side and finished it erring in width outside off stump. The consequence was four runs, four leg-byes and three wides. After one more over, costing five runs, he was taken off.

Gough returned later to bowl effectively and claim his first wickets for England since the Lord's Test match seven months ago, briefly bringing his side into the game when South Africa were 73 for four, chasing 199 to win.

Illingworth, though, was more interested in how he began. "We have no chance of winning the World Cup if we don't do things professionally," he said. Speaking more generally, he added: "As long as the players are honest, I *don't mind. I would* call honest admitting that they have played badly." The impression was that some were not prepared to do so.

Among those with reason to reflect ruefully on their performances were Reeve, who looked as though he had still not shaken off closed-season cobwebs, and White, whom Illingworth consistently defends but who was again unpersuasive as a bowler. At least he had earlier batted well in scoring 34 from 38 balls.

England's bowlers were put into the shade by Pollock, who also stood head and shoulders above his own team-mates. His wonderful opening spell of six overs was a faultless exhibition and brought him three wickets for eight runs.

Illingworth said that the match told him little that he did not already know about his players, which means it was a wasted opportunity. Two of those who confirmed themselves in his thoughts for the World Cup were Fairbrother, whose unbeaten 57 was an intelligent and invaluable innings, and Russell, whose all-round contribution perfectly served the needs of his team. Both, too, are valued as lieutenants by Atherton.

SCOREBOARD

England won toss

ENGLAND

P A J DeFreitas c Donald b Pollock	15
*M A Atherton c McMillan b Pollock	0
R A Smith lbw b Pollock	9
G A Hick b Donald	14
M R Ramprakash c Richardson b Cronje	27
N H Fairbrother not out	57
C White c Cronje b McMillan	34
D A Reeve c Richardson b Donald	10
†R C Russell c Cronje b Snell	12
Extras (lb 7, w 7, nb 2)	16
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs, 208min)	198

M Watkinson and D Gough did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-22, 3-25, 4-53, 5-98, 6-139, 7-168, 8-198.

BOWLING: Pollock 10-2-31-3, Matthews 10-0-34-0; Donald 10-0-53-2, McMillan 10-0-27-1, Snell 6-1-29-1, Cronje 6-0-17-1.

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson b Gough	17
R P Snell c Fairbrother b DeFreitas	8
*W J Cronje c Russell b DeFreitas	7
D J Cullinan c Russell b Gough	25
J H Kallis run out	16
J N Rhodes c Russell b Gough	44
B M McMillan c Smith b White	35
S M Pollock not out	18
†D J Richardson not out	10
Extras (lb 1, lb 7, w 8, nb 3)	19
Total (7 wkts, 48.1 overs, 202min)	199

C R Matthews and A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-29, 3-63, 4-73, 5-114, 6-157, 7-180.

BOWLING: Gough 10-2-31-3, DeFreitas 8-0-35-2; Reeve 10-0-43-0, Hick 3-0-13-0; Watkinson 9-0-43-0; White 8-1-1-26-1.

Match award: S M Pollock

Umpires: R E Koertzen and D L Orchard

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Rigg adds international flavour to cross country

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A CALIFORNIAN holds the English women's national cross country title. An Irishman won the Reebok United Kingdom inter-counties race on Saturday and the women's champion speaks with an American accent. Great Britain's once sure-footed harriers, though showing pockets of resistance, are still, mainly, on slippery ground.

There are many reasons for Britain's international decline, including Africa's emergence, government support in other leading European nations and apathy from the British Athletic Federation (BAF). The lack of international races on mainland Britain, other than in the North East of England, has not helped. Yet assistance may be on its way. Luton Borough Council, which has hosted the inter-counties event for the past three years, has agreed to see out the century, but is not stopping there. It wants to promote an event similar to the televised Durham International.

"The facilities are good, the back-up is good, everybody wants it to happen and we are prepared to pitch in the resources," Roy Davis, the leader of the council, said. "We are enthusiastic and think we could find a sponsor." If that does not prompt an embracing letter from Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, the governing body's apparent marginal interest at management level in cross country will be confirmed.

Luton council has been encouraged to aim higher by the inter-counties' handshake on a further three-year agreement. "That must give the impression we are doing the job right," Dave Magill, the chairman of leisure and amenities, said.

The Luton course is testing, but it proved no problem for Suzanne Rigg. Raised in Iowa, but eligible for Britain since 1992, Rigg won the women's race ten months after Kate McCandless, an American, won the English national championship.

Will the BAF now repay Rigg the favour that it owes her from 1993? Seething over the late withdrawal of Liz McColgan from the European Cup, Rigg answered an emergency call, though she had run two distance races that week. "Someone has got to do it," she said at the time.

Rigg would like an indication that she will be picked for the Olympic marathon. "It has been my dream since I was a child, though I did not dream I would be running it for Britain," she said. Without an assurance, she feels that she will have to run the Boston Marathon in April to push her claim. Ironically, that would rule her out of the world cross country championships, weakening Britain's team.

John Downes, an Irishman who wore a Middlesex vest to inter-counties victory, is also hoping that his national federation will hear a plea. "They said that, if we did not finish in the first six teams at the Europeans, they would not send a team," he said. "We finished seventh.

"Each year, we are go there, get slaughtered and it is money spent wrongly, so they think. If they stick to that, I hope they will send me as an individual." David Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record-holder, whose high-mileage training is legendary, coaches Downes. Now, Downes is on 150 miles a week and *has had to give up his job as a builder* to cope with the load.

Gathering around the table for family affair

Andrew Longmore watches Olympic hopefuls in a low-key atmosphere

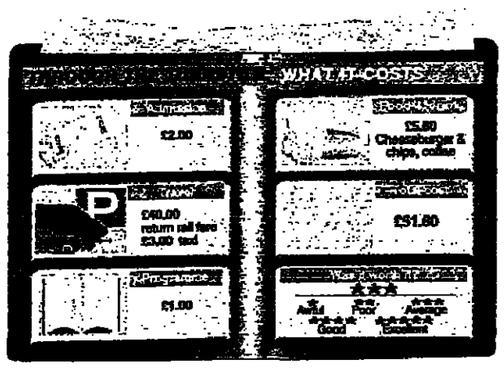
We used to play ping-pong at school. Of a sort, anyway. The table was an ancient desk with splintered ends and the only certain winner was a high loop which clipped the far edge and slid irretrievably to the floor. The shot was risky because you were wide open if it was underhit, but a successful "jam" served two purposes, one was winning the point, the other was reducing your opponent to a raging fit.

Matthew Syed would have been deadly on our school table. He plays as if the "jam" was his bread and butter, if you see what I mean. He is the arch "jammer", the game's most frustratingly brilliant defensive player, and he made an otherwise rather vapid trip to the European Olympic qualifying tournament in Manchester worth every penny of the £2 entrance fee.

Olympic qualifying is tough. For the players, qualification is the meaning of life, the justification for all those hours hitting silly white balls across kitchen tables, for all the expense, the guilt, the selfishness and parental suffering. Of 116 competitors, ten qualify from the women and ten from the men, but, for the spectators, 200 of us wallowing around in the space of the 20,000-seater Nynex Centre more used to Simply Red or the Storm, the all-conquering ice hockey team, the atmosphere was confusingly low key. Like snooker, table tennis is an intimate game, too miniature for the bigger stage.

The ludicrously low price of admission proved that this was really a family affair. Most of the sparse audience must have been uncles, aunts, third cousins or coaches. The noticeboard on the concourse referred to the British players by their first names alone. Just one concessionary stall was open. Matt, Lisa (Lomas), Andrea (Holt) and Alison (Broe) were the centre of what limited attention there was. Matt, in particular, prompted squeals of delight from a gaggle of schoolchildren as he *slowly, like a cat dismantling* its catch, cuffed, prodded and poked his way to victory over Thierry Miller, of Switzerland, in four games.

Syed does most of his business about three yards behind the table. His stock shot is a sliced forehand taken off his bootlaces which floats gently just over the net, luring his opponent into extravagant error. The defeat of Miller was a classic of its genre, a masterly study in the slow and inevitable dismantling of a mind meticulously performed by a man who last summer took a first from Oxford in politics and psychology. By the end, so addled was his brain and so ragged his game.



Miller could not have written his name straight let alone hit the ball.

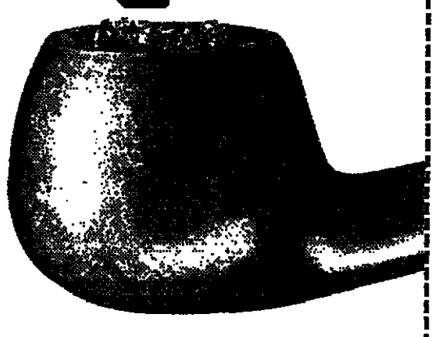
I watched the opening game from the top seats, but moved down — there were no restrictions — closer to the action, partly to check whether Miller really did look as much like Nigel Mansell as I thought he did, partly to feel the force of Syed's mind games. Miller looked worse. He *was* Nigel Mansell, slimmer perhaps, but with the same moustache and, I suspect, the same gift for inventing excuses.

On one side of Syed, a *Hungarian and a Greek* were doing battle in machine-gun bursts, with those hops and skips peculiar to table tennis players and volleys of self-congratulation or abuse. It was difficult to tell the score because I was at the end of the court, the scorers were facing each other across the table and, with 12 courts in three rows of four, separated by a huge black curtain, the voice of the scorer was hard to pick out. I think that the Greek won. He looked the happier amid the hand-shaking.

After Syed had finished, there was a lot of practising, young women clipping balls across the table with hypnotic precision. Control is the key to table tennis because the balance of power can shift so suddenly. Five points can be lost in a trice and a whole range of mannerisms, superstitions and nervous twitches have been developed to stem such flow. Syed rubbed the left side of the table near the net, ostensibly drying sweaty hands; his opponent brushed the table vigorously with his *forearms*.

The most exotic contortions are reserved for the service, where the whole idea is to confuse. Now you see it, now you don't. One Polish woman, broad in girth and smile, hurled the ball skywards only to lose it in her ample shirt when gravity prevailed. She thought it a great trick. The next point, she hit the net and the edge of the table. A double "jam". Clearly, a practitioner of the old school.

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Defensive frailties afflict manager with an eye on the England vacancy

Robson diverted by difficulties on the home front

Middlesbrough 2
Arsenal 3

BY PETER BALL

BRYAN ROBSON may become the next England manager, but his insistence that he still has a job to do at Middlesbrough is unarguable. On Saturday, his side went down to their fourth consecutive FA Carling Premiership defeat as Arsenal showed their more acceptable face in an eventful, highly entertaining game.

It is a bad time to judge Middlesbrough. They were without three of their back five, as well as Hignett, Mustoe and Robson himself, and they lost Pollock before the interval. They are also still integrating Juninho, but, on this evidence, that is proceeding apace.

Defensively, they were at times a shambles, unrecognisable as the mean team of autumn. "We've got to get back to work on our defending," Robson said. However, calls from Lancaster Gate permitting, time is on Middlesbrough's side.

Arsenal are judged by different standards, particularly in the North, where mothers warn errant sons "I'll get that Tony Adams to you if you don't behave."

In the evening, David Mellor's phone-in radio show was inundated with complaints about the treatment of David Ginola of Newcastle United, by the Arsenal defenders and Gerald Ashby, the referee, in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final last Wednesday. Earlier, Lee Dixon, Ginola's main tormentor, had been received with a surprising display of North Eastern solidarity. Barmby greeted him with a tackle that suggested that he was either a close friend of the Frenchman or was taking revenge for abused forwards everywhere, and the crowd booed Dixon's every touch.

In response, Dixon behaved impeccably, saving Juninho from a booking for a wild challenge, hardly committing a foul himself and playing a bigger part in Arsenal's attacks than Dennis Bergkamp. Even with the Dutchman making only an intermittent contribution, and David Platt hardly matching him, Arsenal were still the more likely side as Merson and Wright tormented the defenders. When Merson timed his run to meet a controlled chip by Jensen and touch the ball past Walsh, they looked as if they could win with ease.

"We set out to keep our midfield and defence close together, and use short passes so there weren't any gaps for Juninho and Barmby to run in," Rioch said, "but, after a bit, we started hitting longer balls, we got stretched, and the gaps appeared."

Perhaps their hard week caught up with them. Although Juninho and Stamp began to run forward with increasing purpose, it still took a dubious goal to bring Middlesbrough level. Juninho appeared to be offside when Fjortoft flicked the ball to him off Keown's body.

"My defenders said that the referee told them the ball had come to him off a blue shirt," Rioch said. Overall, Graham Poll had a sound game, but can it be that he does not know the rules? Surely not? It was clear that Keown's touch was involuntary, not a pass, as the offside rule requires.

The equaliser gave the home side the fillip that they needed. Moore, who had come on to replace Pollock and ran at the Arsenal defence with enthusiasm, began the move that took them ahead by winning a tussle with Platt. Barmby and Juninho carried it on for Stamp to score.

With Middlesbrough apparently rampant, Arsenal were immediately allowed a route back into the game. Whelan gave away an unnecessary free kick, Wright was given the freedom to meet it, and Platt scored as the ball came back off the post.

Another three minutes and Helder scored his first goal for the club after Wright and Merson combined behind Blackmore. To complete a day of frustration for Middlesbrough, Moore was sent off for elbowing McGowan.

MIDDLESBROUGH (5-2-2-1): G Walsh — C Liddle, N Pearson, S Vickers, P Whelan, C Blackmore — P Stamp, J Pollock (Sub: A Moore, 38min) — N Barmby, Juninho — J-A Fjortoft.
ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, M Keown, G McGowan — P Merson, D Platt, J Jensen, G Helder — D Bergkamp, I Wright.
Referee: G Poll

Full results and league tables . Page 26

RAOUL DIXON



Juninho, who Arsenal claimed was offside, scores the Middlesbrough equaliser

Francis yearns for chance to test his talents in Europe

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Manchester City 0

BY ALYSON RUDD

WHAT, precisely, would it take to make Tottenham Hotspur founder? Certainly not the unexpected and hurtful news that Uefa has banned them from European competition for their failure to take the Intertoto Cup seriously. It is a patently unjust decision; if the governing body of European football has an argument at all, it is with the Football Association and not with individual clubs.

"I can't say it [news of the ban] had the best effect on my players," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. It did not show. While the mood of Manchester City swung crazily, at first craving a goal and then, apparently, not caring less about one, Tottenham put in a disciplined performance and won the game when Armstrong rose above Ingram to head in a cross from Campbell.

Victory put Tottenham into third place in the FA Carling Premiership and their consistency, despite injuries to key personnel, makes qualification for Europe a strong possibility. All the more reason for the ban to act like a slap in the face.

Francis fielded questions about the England coaching vacancy with equanimity, but the ban from Europe elicited a more emotional response. "One of the big things that has devastated me is that one of the things I'd like to do is pit my wits in Europe; tactical wits, so to speak," he said. "I'd hate for that to be taken away from me if we ever get into the situation of qualifying for Europe." Francis likes to call himself a reluctant manager, but here was compelling evidence of something that he is desperate to achieve.

Nobody, it seems, feels that strongly about succeeding Terry Venables. The usual excuse for reluctance to covet the post of England coach is that the pressure is just not worth it. Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, said: "We knock in this country, unfortunately, and it's a chore — it should be the proudest thing any man should want."

Francis, though, does not concur; he says that pressure is "part and parcel of the job". The former England captain does not want to take over as national coach because "the hardest thing for me, the way I work anyway, would be making individuals and teams better by being able to work with them day-to-day. I'd find it so frustrating to play on a Wednesday night and go home and watch the video, like I'll do tonight, and then I'd want to see my players on Monday and go through the video."

Such an approach has worked wonders for Francis at club level, where he has made poor players ordinary and promising players shine. Who else could have turned Rosenthal into an enthusiastic midfield player?

It is an approach that Francis outlined to Jimmy Armfield when interviewed about the vacancy at the



Francis: emotional

England helm two years ago. It is probably the reason why Francis was not recommended as the successor to Graham Taylor, for Taylor showed that applying club management techniques to the national side has limitations.

The England coach simply cannot have very long with his chosen few and to spend that time teaching them basic skills undermines the players' confidence and wastes the opportunity to create team spirit.

If, however, by some bizarre legal inadequacy, Tottenham are banned from Europe, Francis might view the England job as his best chance to discover how he would fare against continental opposition.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, S Nethercott, G Mabutt, J Edinburgh — S Campbell, D Caskey, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal — E Shenngham, C Armstrong.
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): E Immel — N Summerbee, K Symons, K Curle, R Ingram — R Ekeland (sub: M Brown, 61min), S Lomas, G Flitcroft, G Kinkladze — N Quinn, U Rösler.
Referee: D Gallagher

Kinnear seeks salvation in conspiracy theory



Earle: foolhardy

Bolton Wanderers 1
Wimbledon 0

BY PAT GIBSON

IF Robbie Earle spoke to the referee in the same terms as Joe Kinnear, his manager, addressed reporters as he left Burnden Park, it is small wonder that he became the sixth Wimbledon player to be sent off this season.

Television proved that Earle had a right to feel aggrieved when he claimed that he had used his head and not his hand in trying to clear a cross by Curcic. Mike Reed, the referee, awarded Bolton Wanderers a penalty that McGinlay converted to give them their first win in 12 FA Carling Premiership games.

To carry on the argument, however, even after Wimbledon had swept to the other end and gone within inches of equalising through a glancing header by Holdsworth, was foolhardy in the extreme, given the reputation of Reed. Out came the red card and off went Earle, to the fury of Kinnear. The manager's only printable comment was: "I've had a run-in with him [Reed] before and in my opinion he's a very poor referee. I just hope he can live with himself."

The latest incident will strengthen Wimbledon's conviction that they are unfairly treated by referees, so much so that Sam Hammam, their owner, is said to be putting together a video to prove it; but, as the saying goes, methinks they doth protest too much. The Wimbledon players sprang to the defence of Earle, insisting that he had not sworn at the referee, but officials can take only so much.

It could, of course, be part of Wimbledon's game plan because, as they have had plenty of opportunities to show before, they can play better with ten men. This time, however, the handicap proved too great, especially after they lost Holdsworth as well, with a gashed shin.

The arrival of Ian Porterfield as coach alongside Colin Todd, the manager, seems to have given Bolton greater discipline and they stood up resolutely to an aerial bombardment. They also created the better chances, mainly through the dribbling skills of Curcic, the Serb who looks a bargain at £1.5 million. Bolton are still five points adrift at the bottom of the table, but Todd said: "There is still a long way to go and there is always hope if we keep believing in ourselves."

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — S Green, G Bargasson, A Stubbs, J Phillips — S Curcic, R Sneekes, S Sellars, M Pastelainen — J McGinlay, N Blake (sub: D Lee, 85min).
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, A Reeves, A Kimble — E Ekoku, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, M Gayle — M Harford, D Holdsworth (sub: J Euell, 83).
Referee: M Reed

Senior servants stand out

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Liverpool 1

BY IAN RODGERS

"OLD players don't retire, they sign for us," one Sheffield Wednesday supporter claimed before this game on Saturday. His comment may have been flippant, but it represented a stark reality for the South Yorkshire side.

The biggest league attendance at Hillsborough this season may have come to witness the young talents of Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler, but it was the more seasoned members of the home side who earned the plaudits.

The enthusiasm and guile of Steve Nicol, Chris Waddle and Des Walker prompted a total dominance of the first half against a Liverpool side who "were never really in it", according to Roy Evans, their manager.

Nicol and Walker were always one pace ahead of the Liverpool forward line. However, the control that they exerted reaped only one goal, Darko Kovacevic scoring his third in four games from an Ian Nolan pass.

Guy Whittingham, David Hirst's previous strike partner, could have sealed the game with a hat-trick from his midfield position, but his finishing proved woeful.

To focus attention on the unfortunate midfield player would be hugely unjust on a Wednesday exhibition that belied their mediocre league position, but their failure to convert chances coincided with the ominous spectre of a resurgent Liverpool side.

The vitality, which was conspicuous by its absence in the first period, returned and Fowler and Collymore went close. Evans replaced Rob Jones with Ian Rush ten minutes from time and, in the final moments, the Wales international saw his shot deflect off Walker and beyond the recalled Chris Woods.

It was impossible to reconcile this Wednesday performance with the FA Cup defeat at Charlton and only served to underline the frustrations of their supporter, although the return of Nicol steadied the side. On an afternoon when age seemed irrelevant, David Pleat was swift to laud the former Scotland international. "Steve was superb," the Wednesday manager said. "He did everything he could to repel his old team."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-2): C Woods — P Atherton, S Nicol, D Walker — I Nolan, C Waddle, G Whittingham, M Degryse (sub: G Hyde, 86min), L Briscoe — D Kovacevic (sub: M Bright, 78), D Hirst.
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — P Babb, N Ruddock, J Scales — R Jones (sub: I Rush, 80), J Barnes, M Thomas, J McAteer, S McManaman — S Collymore, R Fowler.
Referee: D Elleray

Le Tissier weighed down

Nottingham Forest 1
Southampton 0

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THE burden of expectation sits uneasily upon the shoulders of Matthew Le Tissier and Southampton's future in the FA Carling Premiership depends disproportionately on whether it can be removed by Dave Merrington, the club's manager.

He knows how Le Tissier represented the biggest reason for their survival last season. This time, the *cause célèbre* is not so much struggling to replicate the spectacular goalscoring efforts that confirmed his status as one of English football's most gifted players as barely scoring at all.

Three of his four league goals came against Nottingham Forest on the opening day of the season and, in the corresponding game at the City Ground on Saturday, he did not produce a single shot to trouble Crossley, the Forest goalkeeper.

Not that his relatively meagre contribution to a match decided by Cooper's 44th-minute headed goal spared him the accustomed media attention. "If I score a brilliant goal, you ask me about it, and if I have a rubbish game, you want to know about that as well," he told reporters with resigned politeness before refusing to say whether he welcomed the impending departure of Terry Venables as England coach.

Merrington, his side just one point from the relegation zone, senses a general improvement in Le Tissier's play of late, despite a palpable shortage of confidence. He also points in mitigation to minor injuries that, while forcing him to miss only three games, have hampered him.

"He has been depressed through it all," Merrington said. "When a class player is not getting selected for England and he doesn't feel he can give any more, I'm sure it must affect him." The feeling persists that Southampton's potency is nullified by stopping Le Tissier and, at the moment, that is not proving too difficult. Frank Clark, the Forest manager, briefed his players that the nearest man should close down Le Tissier quickly rather than man-mark, and the success of his policy was reflected by Forest's clear superiority.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Stone, C Bart-Williams, S Glenmall, I Wilson — K Campbell (subs: J Lee, 76min), B Roy.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1): D Beasant — A Neilson, J Dodd, K Monkou, S Charlton — F Bennett (sub: P McDonald, 58), B Venison, J Magilton, N Maddison (sub: G Watson 86), M Le Tissier — N Shipperley
Referee: S Lodge.

Blackburn justify fears of Wilkins

Queens Park Rangers .. 0
Blackburn Rovers 1

BY IVO TENNANT

FOOTBALL managers can be fatalistic souls. On the eve of the champions' visit to London, Ray Wilkins grew to the realisation that they had not won away from home all season. "That," he said, "will be the kiss of death for us." How right he was.

It would not be fair to say that Blackburn Rovers toyed with his youthful Queens Park Rangers team — they were evenly-matched — but there was a certain savvy about their football that culminated, almost inevitably, in a goal for Shearer. In league, if not international football, he remains the nonpareil.

It was telling that his headed goal, which showed power and accuracy, should have resulted from his team winning a 50-50 ball, the robust Kenna getting the better of Goodridge. Blackburn, as their manager mistakenly believed would be of inestimable value in Europe, are a robust club.

In the FA Carling Premiership, of course, this is a considerable attribute. Wilkins was harried off the ball without deference to his age or ability. That was only to be expected. Of greater concern to Rangers was that Sinclair was likewise unable to rid himself of the tight marking that will increase in accordance with his burgeoning reputation.

Given that this is on the catwalk as well as on the football pitch, it is perhaps surprising that hardened managers are not deterred. Howard Wilkinson, so the speculation goes, would be willing to pay £5 million for Sinclair and such conjecture will continue until the inevitable transfer takes place. Twenty years ago, Rangers could retain their most gifted players, the likes of Gerry Francis and Stan Bowles. Now, the Ferdinands, Sintons and Sinclairs soon move on.

Sinclair hinted as much on Saturday. Yes, he would like to win medals. Yes, one day this might mean leaving Loftus Road. For the time being, he wants to ensure that Rangers avoid relegation. Nobody could have expected him to say anything different and there was no mistaking his desire to take on Blackburn's defence single-handed.

Once, a long-range shot forced Flowers into a rare stretched save. On another occasion, Sinclair and Allen combined to give Wilkins a chance that he put over the crossbar by several feet.



Sinclair: hinted at move

Wilkins was jeered by his own supporters when he went off, six minutes before time. In his fortieth year, he deserves better than that. Shearer was roundly booed for no other reason than that he is Shearer. The best footballers are held in no higher esteem than the worst politicians. Sport was not supposed to come to that.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-3-3): J Sommer — D Bardsley, A McDonald, S Yates, T Challis — R Wilkins (sub: D Maddix, 84min), N Quashie, M Brazier (sub: M Halsley, 45) — A Impey (sub: G Goodridge, 73), B Allen, T Sinclair.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — H Berg, C Coleman, C Hendry, J Kenna — S Ripley, D Batty, I Boninen, K Gallagher — A Shearer, M Newell
Referee: G Ashby

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Wilkinson stays quiet on conundrum

Russell Kempson sees Leeds finish a hectic programme with a 2-0 defeat of West Ham

HODDLE, Francis, Wilkins and Keegan have turned it down. Robson remains noncommittal, Bruno is a lively outsider and Lord Lucan, too, is allegedly interested, if the Football Association can discover his address. Then there is Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, who qualifies, even allowing for his quirkier moments, on numerous fronts — experience, diplomacy and tactical acumen among them.

The quest for an England coach, to lead the nation's finest into the World Cup finals, is a conundrum. In the wake of the decision of Terry Venables to retire prematurely after the European championship, an abundance of names has already been proposed, seconded and dismissed. It is, after all, the job from hell, an international allotment on which expectation always outgrows reality.

For Wilkinson, 52, it would surely be foolish to enter such a maelstrom. He is perhaps better suited to the FA's other onerous tasks — that of technical director, now pending, or even that of chairman, soon to be available.

At Elland Road on Saturday, there were no obvious clues, especially on his desire or otherwise to succeed Venables. "Over the years, this subject has cropped up three or four times," Wilkinson said. "On this occasion, I've decided to keep my mouth shut." Maybe that was enough. He is not counting himself in, but not ruling himself out, either.

Wilkinson was more concerned about how Leeds had just finished a spell of seven matches in 21 days, losing only once. "I feel like the manager of a road crew after a series of one-night shows," he said. "It shouldn't happen to an animal." He was also perturbed at the dismissal of Lee Chapman, 25 minutes into his return on a month's loan, for elbowing Marc Rieper.

"In all the time I've known Lee, he has never gone out there with the purpose of hurting an opponent," Wilkinson said. "If he did catch him, it must have been an accident." Chapman concurred: "I was a bit hyped up, the ball was not really in my favour and the elbow did hit his head," he said. "There was no intent, it was just clumsy."

Rieper was repeatedly booed by the Leeds supporters, as if he had head-butted Chapman's elbow, and yet he was unable to fully absolve his vanquished opponent. "I didn't see what hit me and I can't really remember much about it," he said. However, he also vouched for Chapman's good character. "I don't think he's the type to do anything like that deliberately."

Leeds do not do things the easy way, causing Wilkinson untold misery. Usually, they go a goal or two behind before raising a sweat; on Saturday, it needed the loss of their stand-in striker to jump-lead them into life. Brolin bagged a brace of neatly-taken goals, but West Ham United were so ineffective that they would have struggled to beat eight men.

Leeds might give Wilkinson a few palpitations, but that is a tenth of what he can expect if inheriting the warmest of hot seats. Forget it, Howard. Leave it to Lucan or Bruno.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-1-2): M Beeney — G Kelly, D Wetherall, C Palmer, A Dorigo (sub: A Couzens, 84min) — M Ford, G McAllister, G Speed — T Brolin (sub: I Harte, 75) — L Chapman, R Wallace (sub: A Gray, 75).
WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): L Miklosko — M Rieper, S Potts, J Dicks — J Moncur, I Bishop, D Williamson, K Rowland (sub: R Slater, 45) — M Hughes — I Dowie, A Cottee.
Referee: P Danson

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Masterful Masinga leads one-nation party



Rob Hughes, football correspondent, reports from Johannesburg on a day of mutual sporting admiration

Two players resident in Leeds, of all places, returned victorious to the African continent over the weekend. First, and most important to the vast majority of the population here, Philemon Masinga, the reserve centre forward of Leeds United, scored one goal, created two more, produced the touch of a Brazilian and was applauded by 100,000 spectators at the FNB Stadium on Saturday. Nelson Mandela was there to share yet another of these sporting days that are helping to bring the whole South African nation together, as South Africa beat Cameroon 3-0 in the first match of the twentieth African Nations' Cup.

Within 24 hours, Tony Yeboah, the Ghanaian who keeps Masinga out of the Leeds team, scored for Ghana against the Ivory Coast in Port Elizabeth. This being Yeboah, it was, *of course, a thunderous* athletic volley, struck from 13 yards with the left foot high off the ground. What is new? Goal-of-the-month Yeboah has merely picked up his English rhythm.

Saturday was black Africa's sporting day in Johannesburg. They began walking towards the stadium from miles around as early as 8.0 in the morning for the 3pm kick-off. Many arrived without tickets, with little hope, but in the event they got in. FNB's capacity is something around 80,000 seats, but, this close to Soweto, a heartland of footballing pride and escapism throughout the apartheid decades, the police did not have the heart to refuse admission.

In the skies, jet aeroplanes came close to reconstructing nature, leaving vapour trails in rainbow colours symbolic of Mandela's new South Africa. Not many were white, and the predominantly *black South Africa team have* asked that more of their white brothers come and join "Bafana Bafana", as the football "Boys" are known. The audience was led in song by Vicky Samson, with her inspiring rendition of *My African Dream . . . An End to Confusion.*

Not a complete end. For, as the flags of what should have been 16 competing nations were paraded, there was the hollow absence that external politics can inflict on sport. Nigeria, the last champions of the vast continent, had been refused by General Sani Abacha, their military dictator, the opportunity to defend their title.

Footballers sacrificed like soldiers to the whim of a politician. It *left a sour taste in a day of liberated* enthusiasm; and, though President Mandela is the perfect diplomat and populist when deploying sport for integration, we later learnt that he had that morning denounced in Pretoria a small rump of militant Afrikaners trying, he said, to preserve unjust privileges. He warned them that they face being left on the political sidelines, but, in the stadium, he spoke only of African brotherhood, of South Africa being admitted for the first time to the Nations' Cup — and then the action. Masinga, the last player to arrive in Johannesburg after being obliged to play for Leeds against Reading in the Coca-Cola Cup, had asked to be left out, *to have time to get over jet lag and* to acclimatise to altitude. Clive Barker, the pugnacious South Africa coach, persuaded Masinga to play. His goal, in the fourteenth minute, was a gift from the negligent Cameroon defence. Before half-time, he helped Mark Williams, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, to score the second and, after 54 minutes, Masinga produced the most stunning of backheels so that John Moshoey could score the third.

The South Africans, isolated from all sports for so long, have begun rethinking the powers of support and motivation. On the field at half-time, Francois Pienaar, the captain of the rugby world champions, led most of his white colleagues with a banner proclaiming: "One team, one country, *Amabokoboko* [Springboks] support Bafana Bafana". Their reception was rapturous, the sporting divides were united and, within 24 *hours, the football players who had* defeated the no-longer Indomitable Lions of Cameroon took the field at Centurion Park to return the gesture to the South Africa cricket team.

We are learning by the minute of how sport, which helped to break apartheid, is becoming again the crux of South African feelings. There is a rough edge of crime in the inner-city areas. Playing games can cover only so much of a nation's problems, but here, where players in the two teams had been flown from their clubs in eight countries, came the reminder that sport can be the way out of all of this. Mark Fish, tall and young and one of only three whites in the South Africa team, played so well, gave such an impression of courage and force and inspiration from defence, that he looked ready-made for Europe. Last night the agents were being dispatched, at least one representing an English club, offering *to make the 21-year-old Fish the* sport's latest millionaire. Money talks in every land.

The young ones of Charlton reap rich reward

Birmingham City 3
Charlton Athletic 4

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

CONCEDING a penalty against Birmingham City after 25 seconds, and subsequently going 1-0 down, is not the ideal way to start a match at St Andrew's. Yet Charlton Athletic, average age 23 and collectively worth only £275,000, have old heads on young shoulders. They *absorbed the blow calmly, recap*tured their senses and moved smoothly into second place in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division yesterday.

It had looked so bleak. With few of the players having touched the ball, Humphrey accidentally ankle-tapped Donowa as he cut into the Charlton area and Hunt drilled in the penalty. Birmingham's 39th game of an increasingly arduous season had opened in promising, yet ultimately deceptive, fashion.

By half-time, Charlton were 3-1 ahead and cruising. Their more perceptive passing, with Mortimer and Bowyer to the fore, always had the edge on Birmingham's direct and abrasive approach.

The eighteenth-minute equaliser, admittedly, was fortunate. Leaburn glanced on Balmer's free kick and the ball bounced off a post and struck Edwards before crossing the line. However, the second and third goals owed everything to skill and composure. Grant gliding past Daish and then beating Sansome, and Robin*son tucking away a first-time* shot from Bowyer's cross.

"We were left a bit stunned by that early goal, but we quickly got over it," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "A few of the lads grew up out there. We can play better, but the result was really important for us."

Leaburn lunged forward to head in Charlton's fourth, after 70 minutes, prompting many Birmingham supporters to head for the exits. Pity. They missed an engrossing comeback, with Edwards and Forsyth giving belated hope to an apparently lost cause with nicely-executed late efforts. A victory, though, and deservedly so, for the young ones.

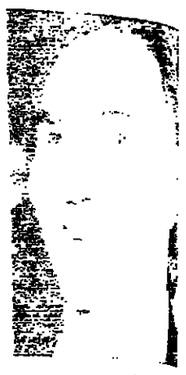
BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): P Sansome — G Poole, A Edwards, L Daish, J Frain (sub: G Cooper, 45mn) — J Hunt (sub: J Bowen, 45), R Forsyth, D Preece, L Donowa — G Bull, S Claridge (sub: K Francis, 45)

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M Salmon — J Humphrey, R Rufus, S Balmer, J Stuart — S Newton, L Bowyer, P Mortimer, J Robinson — K Grant (sub: G Nelson 77), C Leaburn

Referee: P Richards.

Fates conspire against Frenchman and his team in their pursuit of the Premiership

Cantona rages against the injustices of life



Manchester United 0
Aston Villa 0

BY OLIVER HOLT

ERIC CANTONA stalked off the pitch without shaking a single hand on Saturday. Perhaps it was supposed to be in keeping with the new shaven-headed look that, in tandem with his upturned collar and his peacock chest puffed out in frustration, he seemed even meaner than usual, even scarier to defences already jittery at the prospect of facing up to him. Whatever the reason, when the final whistle went, he turned on his heels and stomped towards the tunnel like a horse with blinkers. Nobody was stupid enough to offer any consoling words.

Against the competent journeymen from Aston Villa, Cantona's panache had, for once, deserted him at Old Trafford. The malaise that has seen his team win just twice in the past nine FA Carling Premiership games seems to be getting to him, too. Long after many of his team-mates had resigned themselves to the fact that they were not going to get the run of the ball, Cantona raged against the prospect of a goalless draw — but the inspiration just would not come.

He dropped deeper and deeper to try to dredge something from the arid landscape, but there was nothing back there either. He seemed bewildered by his side's inability to break down their stubborn opponents and made little effort to hide his disgust with the finishing ineptitude of Cole, who squandered the best two chances of the match.

If there was any consolation for Cantona the philosopher, it was in some slightly surreal events that suggested that not everything was as it should be in the world in Stretford on Saturday. The stadium disc jockeys spent five minutes discussing the absence of Dwight Yorke from the Villa line-up and his prospects with Trinidad and Tobago in the African Nations' Cup. When they tried to test the emergency tone at half-time, Simply Red came on instead.

Even Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, played his own burlesque cameo in this world of the bizarre after the match. He lamented the lack of height of Gary Neville, his centre half. "If he was an inch taller, he would be the best centre half in Britain," Ferguson said. "His father is 6ft 2in as well. Life is not fair. I would check the milkman."

In between these heavy hints, Cantona and his colleagues had seen absolute proof that subversive elements were at work. The understanding between Giggs and the Frenchman that appears almost telepathic at times broke down completely. Giggs made a run to the right, Cantona laid the ball neatly off to the left: Cantona peeled off to the far post, Giggs chipped a delicate pass to the near post. Those deep intakes of breath, that betray Cantona's frustration, became ubiquitous.

Sharpe was a sadly emasculated version of the flying winger he once was, buffeted by enraged screams from Schmeichel that greeted his every mistake. Keane, Ferguson's alternative to Robert Lee as the best midfield player in Britain, abandoned the idea of surging runs for a deeper-lying, almost sedentary, role that robbed him of much of his recent effectiveness.

Cole's feel for the bizarre has deserted him of late in the form of a couple of cracking goals, but he fitted in perfectly with the atmosphere on Saturday. In the 28th minute, the £7 million man, the centre forward who could not miss even a half-chance when he was at Newcastle United, ran on to a cross from Butt with the goal at his mercy. Full contact meant a certain goal from six yards out, but he glanced it wide to the left.

Twenty minutes from the end, he did it again. United's best move of the game began with Cantona's flick to Butt and Butt's pass to Cole. He advanced on goal, but fired high and wide to the left. Cantona fell to his knees, beating the ground in despair.

In United's defence, Villa perfectly fitted Ferguson's description of a "really dour, uncompromising side", although, in Draper, with his tenacity, long, accurate passes and refusal to give away possession even once, they had the best player on the pitch, with only Giggs as a rival.

Villa packed their defence and tried to hit United on the break. Milosevic was not up to the job and Johnson, though lively, was lightweight. They missed Yorke, wherever he was. "We have gone to places and tried to have a go this season," Brian Little, their manager, said, "but, today, we were just not up to the job."

The draw, though, was hardly a result to make Newcastle shudder in the midst of their own wobbles and allowed Tottenham Hotspur to move within a point of United. Pallister should be back soon, but defence was not the problem here. United rarely looked like breaking down Villa.

"The Premiership is starting to look like the Grand National," Ferguson said. "People are falling at hurdles every week and Newcastle are going to come up against a testing time. Of that I am certain."

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, S Bruce, G Neville, P Neville — N Butt, R Keane, L Sharpe (sub: P Scholes, 79mn) — E Cantona — R Giggs, A Cole

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — S Milosevic, T Johnson (sub: R Scimeca, 90).

Referee: G Willard



Cantona tries in vain to direct his suffering team-mates during a frustrating afternoon's work at Old Trafford

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Newcastle	22	51	+25	WWLWW
2	Manchester Utd	23	42	+19	DWWDW
3	Tottenham	23	41	+10	DDWWD
4	[illegible]	22	39	+20	DWDWW
5	Arsenal	23	37	+9	LWDLW
6	Notts Forest	22	37	+2	LWWLW
7	Aston Villa	21	36	+12	DWLWD
8	Blackburn	23	35	+6	DWWDW
9	Leeds	22	35	+3	WWLDW
10	Everton	23	34	+8	LWLWD
11	[illegible]	23	33	+1	WLLLL
12	Chelsea	23	32	-1	WLDWD
13	Sheffield Wed	22	31	0	WDLWD
14	[illegible]	23	30	-10	LWLLL
15	Wimbledon	23	21	-14	DWWLL
16	Southampton	22	20	-12	LDDDL
17	Coventry	23	19	-16	LWWDL
18	Manchester City	23	19	-20	DLLWL
19	[illegible]	23	18	-17	WLLLL
20	Bolton	23	17	-22	DLLLW

Change: Up Stayed the same Down

Megson relishes his moment

Sunderland 0
Norwich City 1

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

GARY MEGSON could not stop smiling during the post-match press conference at Roker Park yesterday — and no wonder. Norwich City had finally won a game under his management.

During five matches as the club's caretaker-manager last spring, Megson failed to preside over a victory as his side were relegated from the FA Carling Premiership. Similarly, the six fixtures that followed his full-time appointment in succession to Martin O'Neill all ended in disappointment, a worrying run that finally ended on Wearside.

Yet there were mysteries lurking behind Megson's satisfaction yesterday. Where was the adrenalin that will surely fuel Sunderland's challenge to Manchester United in their FA Cup third-round replay tomorrow night? It was sorely missed yesterday. And how did Molby transport his considerable bulk through Norwich's midfield?

On loan from Liverpool, Molby is inexcusably overweight, yet, though his shirt spent the afternoon hanging significantly outside his shorts, he remains a sublime passer of a ball, capable of silencing any terrace taunts about his size. He did exactly that when his eleventh-minute dispatch picked out Ward, who duly put Norwich ahead. It was enough to put a smile on Megson's face — the first of many on a memorable day.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): A Chamberlain, D Kubicki (sub: L Howey, 81min), A Melville, R Ord, M Scott, P Bracewell, S Agnew, M Gray, D Kelly. (sub: N Smith, 5). P Gray, C Russell

NORWICH (4-4-2): B Gunn, C Bradshaw, J Polston, S Prior, M Bowen, D Eadie, J Molby, N Adams, K O'Neill (sub: R Ullathorne, 57), R Fleck (sub: K Scott, 78), A Ward

Referee: G Cain.

Hoddle left in the dark as Hughes hits fever pitch



Everton 1
Chelsea 1

BY KEITH PIKE

THE virus that sweeps sporadically through modern football returned with re*newed and deadly vigour to* Merseyside. Mysterious and malevolent, it descended on Goodison Park to leave sane men stricken and a half-decent match irreversibly scarred.

The symptoms are many and varied, but two groups appear especially susceptible: intelligent, well-paid players who feel compelled to disengage their brains somewhere between the dressing-room and the pitch and visionary managers who can detect the tactical nuances of a game from 5,000 paces but who are unable to see one player kicking lumps out of another 30 feet away.

The first victim of this disease on Saturday was Dan Petrescu, Chelsea's cultured defender from Romania. Eleven minutes before half-time, with his side ahead and sucking the life out of Everton thanks to a six-man midfield and an improving, impressive, possession game, Petrescu was clearly held back by Limpar after being caught in possession on the edge of the Chelsea area. There was, though, neither flag nor whistle.

Petrescu, albeit incensed, had two sensible options: pursue Limpar into the area to try to get in a saving tackle, or leave the situation to his fellow *defenders. But no, the virus* had hold of him as surely as he was going to have hold of Limpar. Down went the Swede, and in went Unsworth's penalty, emphatically, to negate the lead that Spencer had given Chelsea.

Petrescu's act was reckless, but lunacy was to follow, for Mark Hughes was displaying all the tell-tale signs. Booked in each of his previous four matches, and one caution away from an automatic suspension, he hastened to his fate. An early kicking match with Ablett was followed by a running feud with Unsworth that provoked, in the 57th minute, an unequivocal "that's-your-last-chance" from Robbie Hart, the referee. The warning was ignored. In the 59th, another foul brought the inevitable caution, for persistent misconduct.

Hart's ink was hardly dry when Hughes and Unsworth tangled again, and this time, as the Everton defender fell, Hughes brought his right boot down on his rival's back. Not savagely, not slyly — Hart was maybe ten yards away — but clearly and petulantly. Ludicrously. Hughes departed, mission accomplished. His punishment, probably a five-match ban, awaits.

Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, saw things a bit differently, to the extent that Hughes was victim, not villain. Hughes had protested his innocence, and that was good enough for Hoddle, who lamented not the ill-discipline of his players but "the way the game is going".

It was this conclusion that had forced him to withdraw Wise, his captain and one of five others cautioned, to prevent him following Hughes down the tunnel. Another victim, Hoddle said, of "the way the game is going".

A cure for this malaise surely includes ensuring that all players who make themselves unavailable for work through their own foolishness are not paid for the duration. And how about free eye tests for managers?

EVERTON (3-5-2): N Southall — C Short, G Ablett, D Unsworth — A Kanchelskis, B Horne, J Ebbrell, A Hinchcliffe (sub: D Amokachi, 59min), A Limpar — G Stuart, P Rideout

CHELSEA (3-6-1): K Hitchcock — M Duberry, D Lee, A Myers — D Petrescu, D Wise (sub: P Furlong, 85), R Guflr, J Spencer, E Newton, T Phelan — M Hughes.

Referee: R Hart.

Astute Burns gains the dividend

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

THE sterner sort of politician will speak witheringly of those who believe difficulties may be overcome by "throwing money at the problem". If the 2-1 victory for Celtic at Pittodrie yesterday is anything to go by, however, cash may be the best form of ammunition, in football matches at least. Aberdeen led at the interval, and the reversal of fortune that followed cost . . . well, fortunes.

The four most expensive members of the visitors' team engineered the victory in the opening ten minutes of the second half. First, Andreas Thom (£2.2 million) sent Phil O'Donnell (£1.75 million) galloping away on the right and his cross was turned in at the far post by John Collins (a measly £1 million) for the equaliser.

Celtic's winner also reeked of affluence as Thom sprinted past Inglis and teased a cross back from the byline for Pierre van Hooijdonk (£1.25 million) to slam home a left-footed shot. With this result, Celtic move to just five points behind Rangers, the leaders of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, and have a game in hand.

While it was possible, at Pittodrie at least, to argue that Celtic's credentials as challengers for the title are comprised of a set of price tags, the wealth has been given potency by the shrewdness of the man who has spent it. Tommy Burns, the club's manager, may well be unique in football at present. Most people in his profession are tormented by at least one of their signings. At Celtic, for instance, Liam Brady produced a stylish team, but was always scrambling to recover the credibility lost with Tony Cascarino, his first purchase for the club. Burns, on the other hand, has bought flawlessly.

For a long time, there were rebukes over the acquisition of O'Donnell from Motherwell in September 1994. The £1.75 million fee was high, especially for a player whose fitness was in question even then. Indeed, it is only now, after a hernia operation and numerous injuries, that O'Donnell has recovered the robustness of his youth.

For much of his period with Celtic, he has taken the field while lacking the stamina on which his game depends. In such circumstances, confidence also dwindles, and he looked forlorn at times when a body he had always trusted to take him surging away from opponents seemed to have become a handicap.

These days, though, Burns feels free to describe him as "the best midfielder of his type in Scotland, if not Britain". While others in the Celtic side specialise in crafted passes, it is the ceaseless, intelligent running of O'Donnell that provides the direction.

The expertise of Celtic, though, does not depend solely on the writing of mighty cheques. At full-time yesterday, the most extravagant celebrations were those of Tosh McKinlay, the left back, who may also have been rejoicing in the unlikely turn of events that brings him a part in such occasions.

Last season, he was operating on month-to-month contracts with Heart of Midlothian and there seemed to be no bidders for his services until Burns, to widespread surprise, spent £350,000 on him. Even the manager thought that he was buying only a useful squad player, but McKinlay, 31, has since gone on to become an international.

Celtic's performance, yesterday, was fragmented, but some of the pieces were gemlike. One of O'Donnell's breaks into the penalty area early in the match saw him hit the post, but Celtic's panache was suppressed for a spell after Aberdeen had taken the lead after 18 minutes. Gordon Marshall, The visitors' goalkeeper, dithered when he should have cleared and then missed the corner kick that his defence had been forced to concede. Billy Dodds was left to head into the net.

At that moment, Rangers supporters, whose team had beaten Raith Rovers 4-0 on Saturday, may have had the old and welcome feeling that their rivals were bound for insignificance yet again. In the second half at Pittodrie, though, Celtic's sense of purpose reasserted itself.

Burns may, nonetheless, have been anxious in the closing stages of a game extended by the injury time required by the treatment given to the referee when he was struck by a coin thrown from the midst of the Aberdeen support. There might even have been an equaliser, but a 25-yard shot from Stewart McKimmie came back off the crossbar.

In their best passages, however, Celtic were capable of the greater accomplishment and, for the first season since 1987-88, have won both of their league fixtures at Pittodrie. These days, Burns's team possesses the will and the means to maintain the struggle with Rangers.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

BOLTON (1) 1 **WIMBLEDON** (0) 0
McStay 44 (pen) 16,216
Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, S Green, G Bergsson, A Stubbs, J Phillips, S Curcic, R Sneekes, S Sellars, M Pralekainen, J McGinlay, N Blake (sub: D Lee, 85min).
Booked: Sneekes.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, C Perry, A Reeves, A Kimble, E Ekoku, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, M Gayle, M Harford. D Holdsworth (sub: J Euell, 53)
Booked: Short, Ablett, Rideout
Sent off: Earle (45).
Referee: M Reed

EVERTON (1) 1 **CHELSEA** (1) 1
Unsworth 36 (pen) Spencer 20
34,969
Everton: N Southall, C Short, G Ablett, D Unsworth, A Kanchelskis, B Horne, J Ebbrell, A Hinchcliffe (sub: D Amokachi, 68min), A Limpar, G Stuart, P Rideout.
Chelsea: K Hitchcock, M Duberry, D Lee, A Myers, D Petrescu, D Wise (sub: P Furlong, 65), R Gullit, J Spencer, E Newton, T Phelan, M Hughes.
Booked: Hughes, Wise, Petrescu.
Sent off: Hughes (82).
Referee: R Hart.

LEEDS (1) 2 **WEST HAM** (0) 0
Brolin 25, 63 30,658
Leeds United: M Beeney, G Kelly, A Dongo (sub: A Couzens, 84min), C Palmer, D Wetherall, R Wallace (sub: Gray, 76min). G McAllister, Speed, T Brolin (sub: Harte, 76min), M Ford, L Chapman.
Sent off: Chapman (28).
West Ham United: L Miklosko, J Dicks, S Potts, I Bishop, M Reper, A Cottee, J Moncur, K Rowland (sub. R Slater, 46min), I Dowie. D Williamson, M Hughes
Booked: Rowland, Williamson
Referee: P Danson

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 0 **ASTON VILLA** (0) 0
42,667
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin, S Bruce, G Neville, P Neville, N Butt, R Keane, L Sharpe (sub: P Scholes, 79min), E Cantona, R Giggs, A Cole
Booked: Schmeichel, Irwin, P Neville, G Neville.
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate, G Charles, J Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright, S Milosevic, T Johnson (sub: R Scimeca, 90)
Booked: Draper, Milosevic.
Referee: G Willard

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 **ARSENAL** (1) 3
Juninho 38 Merson 7
Stamp 56 Platt 69
29,359 Helder 82
Middlesbrough: G Walsh, C Liddle, N Pearson, S Vickers, P Whelan, C Blackmore, P Stamp, J Pollock (Sub: A Moore, 38min), N Barmby, Juninho, J-A Ronnott.
Booked: Barmby
Sent off: Moore (90)
Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, A Adams, M Keown, G McGowan, P Merson, D Platt, J Jensen, G Helder. *D Bergkamp, I Wright.*
Referee: G Poll.

NOTTM FOR (1) 1 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 0
Cooper 44 23,321
Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, I Woan, K Campbell (sub: J Lee, 76min), B Roy
Booked: Pearce
Southampton: D Beasant, A Nelson, J Dodd, K Monkou, S Charlton, F Bennett (sub: P McDonald, 58), B Venison, J Magilton, N Maddison (sub. G Watson 65). M Le Tissier, N Shapperley
Booked: Dodd, Monkou
Referee: S Lodge.

QPR (0) 0 **BLACKBURN** (0) 1
13,957 Shearer 77
Queens Park Rangers: J Sommer, D Bardsley, A McDonald, S Yates, T Challis, R Wilkins (sub: D Maddix, 84min), N Quashie, M Brazier (sub. M Hateley, 45), A Impey (sub: G Goodridge, 73), B Allen, T Sinclair
Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, H Berg, C Coleman, C Hendry, J Kenna, S Ripley, D Batty, L Bohinen, K Gallagher, A Shearer, M Newell.
Booked: Berg.
Referee: G Ashby

SHEFFIELD WED (1) 1 **LIVERPOOL** (0) 1
Kharlorov 7 Rush 87
32,747
Sheffield Wednesday: C Woods, P Atherton, S Nicol, D Walker, T Nolan, C Waddle, G Whittingham, M Degryse (sub: G Hyde, 86min), L Briscoe. D Kovacevic (sub. M Bright, 76).
D Hirst.
Liverpool: D James, P Babb, N Ruddock, J Scales, R Jones (sub: I Rush, 80), J Barnes, M Thomas, J McAteer, S McManaman, S Collymore, R Fowler.
Booked: Ruddock.
Referee: D Elleray.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 **MAN CITY** (0) 0
Armstrong 65 31,438
Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, S Nethercott, G Mabbutt, J Edinburgh, S Campbell, D Caskey, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal, E Sheringham, C Armstrong.
Booked: Rosenthal.
Manchester City: E Immel, N Summerbee, K Symons, K Curle, R Ingram, R Ekeland (sub: M Brown, 61min), S Lomas, G Flitcroft, G Kinkladze, N Quinn, U Rösler.
Referee: D Gallagher.

Yesterday

COVENTRY (0) 0 **NEWCASTLE** (1) 1
20,547 Watson 44.
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, A Pickering, M Hall, D Busst, R Shaw, P Williams, P Telfer (sub, P Ndlovu, 81min), K Richardson, D Dublin, N Whelan, J Salako.
Booked: Pickering.
Newcastle United: P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, P Albert, L Clark, R Lee, P Beardsley, L Ferdinand, S Watson, D Ginola.
Referee: P Jones.

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	20	5	1	26
Ferdinand (Newcastle)	19	4	0	23
Fowler (Liverpool)	18	3	0	21
Wright (Arsenal)	10	8	0	18
Sheringham (Tottnhm)	14	3	0	17
Yeboah (Leeds)	10	2	3	15
Holdsworth (Wimbldn)	8	4	0	12
Dublin (Coventry)	11	0	0	11
Armstrong (Tottenham)	8	3	0	11
Bright (Sheff Wed)	7	3	0	10
Scholes (Man Utd)	7	2	1	10
Yorke (Aston Villa)	7	3	0	10

ELIGIBLE PREMIERSHIP MANAGERS



Some of the names touted for the England manager's job are sheer fantasy. As the table (right) shows, there are two, maybe three FA Carling Premiership managers who are eligible on merit. One is Howard Wilkinson (above), who has been in top management for a number of years and has a championship to his name; Ron Atkinson is another, with two FA Cup wins and valuable European experience with Atletico Madrid. The outstanding candidate is Alex Ferguson, with trophies galore including two European triumphs, but his Scottish links may rule him out — he had a brief spell as Scotland caretaker manager.

Bruce Rioch (Arsenal, 7 mths)
Manager/hons: 4 Lge clubs, promotion (x3)
Brian Little (Aston Villa, 1yr 1mth)
Manager/hons: 3 Lge clubs; promotion (x1), div 4 champ
Ray Harford (Blackburn, 7mths)
Manager/hons: 3 Lge; Lge Cup + r-up
Colin Todd (Bolton, 2 wks)
Manager/hons: 1 Lge; none
Glenn Hoddle (Chelsea, 2yr 3mths)
Manager/hons: 1 Lge club, promotion (x1)
Ron Atkinson (Coventry, 11 mths)
Manager/hons: 5 Lge, 1 Eur, FA Cup (x2), Lge Cup (x2), Prem r-up, promotion (x3)
Joe Royle (Everton, 1yr 2mths)
Manager/hons: 1 Lge club; Lge Cup r-up; div 2 champ
Howard Wilkinson (Leeds, 7yr 3mths)
Manager/hons: 2 Lge, Lge champ, div 2 (old) champ/r-up, promotion (x1)
Roy Evans (Liverpool, 3yrs)
Manager/hons: none, Lge Cup
Alan Ball (Manchester City, 6mths)
Manager/hons: 5 Lge, 1 overseas; promotion (x1)
Alex Ferguson (Manchester Utd, 9yrs 2mths)
Manager/hons: 3 Scots; Lge champ (x2), FA Cup (x2) r-up (x1), EC Winners Cup (x2), Lge Cup (x1), various Scots incl caretaker of national team
Bryan Robson (Middlesbrough, 1yr 8mth)
Manager/hons: None; div 1 champ
Kevin Keegan (Newcastle, 3yr 11mths)
Manager/hons: None, div 1 champ
Frank Clark (Nottingham Forest, 2yr 8mths)
Manager/hons: 1 Lge, promotion (x2)
Ray Wilkins (QPR, 1yr 2mths)
Manager/hons: None; none
David Pleat (Sheffield Wednesday, 7mths)
Manager/hons: 3 Lge; FA Cup r-up; div 2 (old) champ
Dave Merrington (Southampton, 6mths)
Manager/hons: None; none
Gerry Francis (Tottenham, 1yr 2mths)
Manager/hons: 2 Lge; div 3 (old) champ
Harry Redknapp (West Ham, 1yr 5mths)
Manager/hons: 1 Lge; div 3 (old) champ
Joe Kinnear (Wimbledon, 3yr 10mths)
Manager/hons: None, none

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

G PALACE (1) 1 **IPSWICH** (0) 1
Dawes 25 Mathie 58
14,097

DERBY CO (0) 3 **READING** (0) 0
Sturridge 48, 66 15,123
Flyen 82

LUTON (1) 3 **SOUTHEND** (0) 1
Guentchev 45 Byrne 80
Oakes 54, 71 6,566

MILLWALL (1) 1 **PORT VALE** (1) 2
Rae 32 Foyle 6
14,220 Naylor 62

OLDHAM (0) 0 **BARNSLEY** (0) 1
6,029 Payton 72

PORTSMOUTH (2) 3 **GRIMSBY** (0) 1
Walsh 11 Groves 78
Wood 12 6,956
Carter 77

STOKE (1) 1 **LEICESTER** (0) 0
Sturridge 28 13,669

TRANMERE (0) 1 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (0) 1
Moore 85 Hodges 72
7,321
Sent off: M Vonk (Sheffield Utd) 90

WATFORD (0) 0 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 1
7,568 Bullock 46

WEST BROM (0) 0 **WOLVES** (0) 0
21,642

Yesterday

BIRMINGHAM (1) 3 **CHARLTON** (3) 4
Hunt 1 (pen) Edwards 18 (og)
Edwards 75 Grant 36
Forsyth 81 Robinson 44
18,539 Leaburn 70

SUNDERLAND (0) 0 **NORWICH** (1) 1
14,983 Ward 12

SECOND DIVISION

BRADFORD (0) 1 **BRIGHTON** (2) 3
Ormondroyd 59 Minton 24
5,133 Munden 38
McDougald 51

BRISTOL CITY (2) 3 **CREWE** (1) 2
Palascon 4 Booty 18
Nugent 28, 67 Westwood 59
6,790

BURNLEY (2) 4 **STOCKPORT** (3) 3
Vinnicombe 6 Bound 3
Cooke 17 Flynn 12
Hogan 69 Hallwell 33
Francis 79 9,113

CARLISLE (0) 1 **CHESTERFIELD** (1) 1
Law 90 (og) Norbett 11
5,851

HULL (0) 1 **ROTHERHAM** (1) 4
Abbott 78 Berry 29
3,678 Gosler 50
Goodwin 58
Wilpen 68

OXFORD UTD (1) 2 **BRENTFORD** (1) 1
Aldridge 35, 64 Ashby 23
5,574

PETERBOROUGH (1) 4 **BOURNEMOUTH** (1) 5
Farrell 15, 80 Ndah 8
Martindale 54, 64 Casper 67
4,596 Medo 70
Jones 84, 85

SWANSEA (2) 2 **BRISTOL R** (0) 2
Torpey 24 Gurney 75
Edwards 30 Beadle 78
2,956

WALSALL (1) 3 **SHREWSBURY** (0) 0
Watson 14 5,008
O'Connor 56 (pen)
Lightbourne 81

WREXHAM (0) 1 **BLACKPOOL** (0) 1
Watkin 72 Preece 88
5,479

WYCOMBE (0) 1 **NOTTS CO** (0) 1
Williams 89 Rogers 86
4 980

YORK (0) 2 **SWINDON** (0) 0
Naylor 59 3,613
McMillan 85

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTER (1) 1 **BURY** (0) 1
Regis 21 Matthew, 68
3,263
Sent off: P Stant (Bury) 42

COLCHESTER (3) 3 **BARNET** (2) 2
Betts 6 (pen) Primus 23
Abrahams 10, 16 Cooper 36
3,252
Sent off: S Devine (Barnet) 67

DONCASTER (0) 1 **TORQUAY** (0) 0
Carmichael 71 1,607

FULHAM (1) 1 **SCARBOROUGH** (0) 0
Cusack 42 3,557

GILLINGHAM (1) 2 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
Forsyth-West 14 8,047
Ratcliffe 82
Sent off: U Ehiogwe (Lincoln) 39

HEREFORD (3) 5 **CAMBRIDGE** (1) 2
White 12, 34, 67, 85 Middleton 3
Smith 23 (pen) Rayner 48
2 548

L ORIENT (0) 1 **MANSFIELD** (0) 0
Kelly 70 3 461

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 **CARDIFF** (0) 0
Armstrong 20 4,454
Sent off: A Woodman (Northampton) 66

PRESTON (2) 3 **PLYMOUTH** (1) 2
Bryson 37 Heathcote 22
Davey 42 Saunders 89
Cartwright 59 11,126
Sent off: A Littlejohn (Plymouth) 56

ROCHDALE (1) 1 **DARLINGTON** (0) 2
Whitehall 24 (pen) Appleby 75 (pen)
1,945 Olsson 83

SCUNTHORPE (1) 3 **WIGAN** (0) 1
Jones 29 Stamp 71
O Aurio 58 2,298
McFarlane 67

Postponed: Exeter v Hartlepool (home win)

GOALSCORERS

First division: 16 Aldridge (Tranmere) 14 Roberts (Leicester) Goodman (Wolverhampton) 13 Sturridge (Derby County)
Second division: 21 Nogan (Burnley) Barnes (York City) 19 Goater (Rotherham) 17 Stewart (Bristol Rovers) 15 Jones (Bournemouth), Finney (Swindon), White (Notts County)
Third division: 22 Dale (Cardiff City) 16 Saville (Preston North End) 17 White (Hereford) Whitehall (Rochdale)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

HEARTS (1) 2 **FALKIRK** (0) 1
Robertson 30 Kirk 64
Fulton 71 11,564

KILMARNOCK (0) 3 **HIBERNIAN** (2) 2
Mackay 57 O'Neill 21
Wright 63 Wright 40
Henry 89 6,686
Sent off: D Dods (Hibernian) 59

MOTHERWELL (0) 0 **PARTICK** (1) 2
5,006 Turner 44 Watson 51
Sent off: B Davies (Motherwell) 89

RANGERS (3) 4 **RAITH** (0) 0
McCoist 21 Dore 39, 45 42,498
Ferguson 81

Yesterday

ABERDEEN (1) 1 **CELTIC** (0) 2
Dodds 18 Collins 50
17,100 Van Hooijdonk 55

FIRST DIVISION

DUMBARTON (0) 1 **AIRDRIE** (2) 2
Granger 89 Duffield 39
1,045 McIntyre 43
Sent off: P Jack (Airdrie) 35

DUNDEE UTD (2) 2 **ST MIRREN** (0) 1
McSwegan 7, 24 Lavely 74
6,523

DUNFERMLINE (3) 4 **CLYDEBANK** (1) 3
Tod 26 Grady 43, 81
Smith 28, 33 Connell 83
Robertson 85 6,642

G MORTON (1) 1 **DUNDEE** (0) 0
Anderson 44 4,500

HAMILTON (1) 2 **ST JOHNSTONE** (0) 1
Hartley 40 Preston 84
McErlegan 71 1,197
Sent off: A Sekerlioglu (St Johnstone) 41

SECOND DIVISION

CLYDE (2) 3 **STENHOUSEMUIR** (0) 0
Aitken 30, 35 859
Angus 65

MONTROSE (0) 0 **AYR** (1) 1
510 Bilsland 6

STRANRAER (1) 2 **STIRLING** (1) 2
Sloan 2 Waller 87 Bone 1
625 Paterson 90

Postponed: East Fife v Queen 'ol South (home win). Berwick v Forfar (no score draw).

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA (0) 0 **CALEY THIS** (1) 2
410 Thomson 30 Christie 88
Sent off: M Whyte (Alloa) 85

ARBROATH (0) 2 **EAST STIRLING** (0) 1
Walters 75 Watt 52
Pew 90 449
Sent off: A Neill (East Stirling) 60

LIVINGSTON (0) 0 **ALBION** (0) 1
2,500 Crawford 76

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 **BRECHIN** (0) 0
568

ROSS CO (1) 4 **COWDENBEATH** (1) 1
Milne 4 MacKenzie 8
Grant 79, 84 1,369
Connelly 89

SCOTTISH CUP

Second round replays

ANNAN ATH (0) 1 **BERWICK** (0) 2
Stirling 64 Kane 50, 53
1,056

FRASERBURGH (0) 1 **WHITEHILL W** (1) 2
Stephen 57 Bird 37
2,000 Brown 57

KEITH (1) 2 **DEVERONVALE** (0) 0
Nicol 27 Mawer 70 1,800

EAST FIFE (0) 2 *SPARTANS* (0) 1
Gibb 72 Nixon 78
Allan 80

CONFERENCE

ALTRINCHAM (0) 0 **SLOUGH** (0) 1
648 Wesz 65 (pen)

BATH (0) 0 **TELFORD** (3) 3
517 Myers 14, 43, 44

DAG AND RED (1) 1 **SOUTHPORT** (1) 2
Prindiville 22 Whittaker 31
964 Davenport 85

GATESHEAD (0) 1 **FARNBOROUGH** (0) 1
Trott 46 Robson 65
881

HEDNESFORD (1) 2 **NORTHWICH** (0) 1
Lambert 15 Cooke 77
Yates 47 1,017

KETTERING (1) 2 **DOVER** (0) 2
Page 43 Haworth 85 Dawes 83
1,332 Pilkington 88

KIDDERMINSTER (0) 0 **MACCLESFIELD** (1) 4
2,703 Power 36, 57, 84
Gardener 75

MORECAMBE (3) 4 **WOKING** (1) 5
Mark 39 Rowates 41 Hunter 18, 58, 77, 81
Dullaghan 60 Thompson 52
Coleman 89 1,312

RUNCORN (0) 0 **BROMSGROVE** (0) 0
547

STEVENAGE (2) 2 **HALIFAX** (0) 0
Weeables 36, 39 1,841

WELLING (0) 1 **STALYBRIDGE** (0) 1
Gorman 51 Ryan 52
626

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclesfield	25	9	2	2	19	10	7	2	3	22	18	52
2 Stevenage	23	7	3	1	20	12	7	3	1	26	13	48
3 Woking	23	8	2	0	21	5	6	1	5	24	23	45
4 Hednesford	23	6	2	4	20	13	6	0	3	21	10	44
5 Southport	24	6	6	3	3	25	15	4	7	6	23	25	41
6 Kidderminster	26	8	7	2	25	15	4	3	6	23	25	41
7 Gateshead	25	5	5	2	15	13	6	2	5	16	14	40
8 Farnborough	25	5	4	3	16	9	5	4	3	18	18	38
9 Bromsgrove	25	7	4	2	23	13	5	2	6	16	26	37
10 Northwich	24	6	1	5	22	21	4	5	3	20	19	36
11 Halifax	26	6	2	4	23	14	4	2	6	9	17	35
12 Kettering	27	7	4	2	26	14	2	3	8	21	26	34
13 Morecambe	23	9	0	4	34	21	3	3	6	11	23	33
14 Slough	25	5	4	7	23	31	7	0	5	18	15	31
15 Stalybridge	25	5	5	2	17	12	3	3	6	12	14	30
16 Welling	24	4	4	4	16	15	2	4	6	14	19	26
17 Altrincham	25	4	4	5	21	22	2	4	6	10	17	26
18 Bath	26	4	1	8	11	18	3	3	7	11	24	25
19 Dover	24	4	5	3	7	16	20	1	3	7	14	25
20 Runcorn	24	4	3	4	15	21	3	2	7	9	16	24
21 Telford	21	3	4	3	14	13	2	1	8	9	20	20
22 Dag & Red	27	3	6	6	20	26	1	2	3	6	22	20



Russell, the Trinidad and Tobago goalkeeper, foils Balboa, of the United States, during the States' 3-2 win in the Concacaf Gold Cup on Saturday.

OVERSEAS

AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP: Group A: South Africa 3 Cameroon 0. Group B: Zambia 0 Algeria 0. Group D: Ghana 2 Ivory Coast 0

CONCACAF GOLD CUP: United States 3 Trinidad and Tobago 2.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Feyenoord Rotterdam 2 NAC Breda 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ajax	18	17	1	0	62	6	52
PSV Eindhoven	18	14	2	2	61	11	44
Feyenoord	19	9	5	5	40	28	32
Heerenveen	19	8	8	3	32	29	32
Willem II Tilburg	18	7	8	3	28	22	29
Sparta	18	8	5	5	29	32	29
NAC Breda	18	6	6	4	28	16	28
Roda JC K	19	6	6	5	20	21	28
Vitesse Arnhem	19	7	5	7	28	31	26
T Enschede	19	7	5	7	26	29	26
RKC Waalwijk	19	7	4	8	23	27	25
Groningen	19	6	7	6	25	30	25
Fortuna Sittard	19	4	6	9	14	34	18
Volendam	18	3	5	10	16	37	14
DS Deventschem	18	3	5	11	23	42	14
NEC Nijmegen	19	3	5	11	18	46	14
GA Eagles	18	2	6	11	22	40	12
Utrecht	18	2	5	11	14	37	11

FRENCH CUP: Dunkirk 1 Sochaux 3, Laval 4 Poitiers 1, Caen 3 Amiens 2 (aet), Le Mans 1 Creteil 0; Saint-Lo 1 Angers 3, Endoume Marseilles 0 Olympique Marseilles 2; Toulon 2 Pau 1, Pontivy 2 Trelissac 0, Toulouse-Fontaines 0 Istres 1; Nozay 0 Thouars 2

GREEK LEAGUE: Panathinaikos Athens 4 OFI Crete 0; Athinaikos Athens 0 AEK 1. Olympiakos 3 Larissa 1.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cremonese 0 AC Milan 0. Fiorentina 2 Piacenza 1. Inter Milan 2 AS Roma 0; Juventus 1 Bari 1. Padova 3 Atalanta 2. Parma 4 Cagliari 0; Sampdoria 2 Vicenza 2; Udinese 3 Naples 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AC Milan	17	9	7	1	26	12	34
Fiorentina	17	10	3	4	30	19	33
Parma	17	8	7	2	27	16	31
Juventus	17	8	4	5	24	16	28
Lazio	16	7	4	5	30	18	25
Roma	17	6	7	4	20	15	25
Udinese	17	7	4	6	21	20	25
Inter Milan	17	6	6	5	22	15	24
Vicenza	17	6	6	5	16	15	24
Napoli	17	5	8	4	17	17	23
Sampdoria	17	5	7	5	26	26	22
Atalanta	17	6	4	7	21	27	22
Cagliari	17	6	2	9	13	24	20
Torino	16	3	7	6	16	25	16
Bari	17	4	4	9	25	37	16
Piacenza	17	4	4	9	18	33	16
Padova	17	4	3	10	16	26	15
Cremonese	17	2	5	10	18	25	11

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Sporting 0 Porto 2; Tirsense 2 Farense 1; Guimaraes 4 Campomaiorense 0; Amadora 4 Braga 2; Gil Vicente 0 Leca 0; Chaves 1 Felgueiras 0; Maritimo 1 Uniao Leiria 0; Belenenses 1 Boavista 2.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Albacete 1, Atletico de Madrid 1, Betis 3, Valladolid 0. Leading positions: 1, Atletico Madrid, played 21, 49 points; 2, Espanyol, 20, 41; 3, Compostela, 20, 39.

UNIBOND

Premier division: Accrington Stanley 0 Leek 0; Barrow 0 Guiseley 2, Blyth Spartans 1 Bamber Bridge 1; Boston 0 Colwyn Bay 0; Buxton 1 Frickley 0; Chorley 0 Spennymoor 3. Droylsden 3 Matlock 0, Emley 1 Knowsley 3, Gainsborough 1 Marine 0; Winsford 1 Hyde 4, Witton 1 Bishop Auckland 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bamber Bridge	26	15	6	3	56	26	53
Hyde Utd	26	14	6	6	55	34	48
Barrow	24	13	7	4	46	23	46
Guiseley	27	13	7	7	41	29	46
Boston	26	14	3	11	50	36	45
Gainsborough	25	12	8	5	37	24	44
Witton	26	13	4	9	42	38	43
Emley	25	12	4	9	37	30	40
Spennymoor	24	8	10	6	36	30	34
Leek	26	8	9	9	37	32	33
Ac Stanley	26	9	6	11	37	38	33
B Auckland	25	9	6	10	33	37	33
Chorley	25	9	5	11	43	43	32
Blyth Sp	23	8	7	8	36	36	31
Marine	23	7	8	8	24	26	29
Winsford	21	6	7	8	21	33	25
Knowsley	26	7	3	16	33	60	24
Colwyn Bay	23	4	11	8	20	31	23
Droylsden	25	6	4	15	34	68	22
Frickley	24	5	6	13	30	48	20
Matlock	25	4	7	14	40	62	19
Buxton	26	4	7	15	23	54	19

First division: Alfreton 1 Lancaster 6. Ashton United 2 Eastwood Town 1. Atherton LR 2 Whitley Bay 1, Bradford Park Avenue 1 Harrogate Town 1, Congleton 0 Warrington 4 Curzon Ashton 2 Gretna 2. Great Harwood 0 Leigh 2. Lincoln United 4 Workington 0; Netherfield 0 Worksop 2; Radcliffe 2 Farsley Celtic 0

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Atherstone 1 Rushden and Diamonds 3; Burton 1 Baldock 0. Cambridge City 0 Halesowen 1, Chelmsford 1 Stafford 0; Gloucester 3 Merthyr 1, Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Cheltenham 0; Hastings 2 VS Rugby 2, Newport AFC 1 Crawley 1; Salisbury 1 Grantley 4, Sudbury 2 Dorchester 1, Worcester 4 Ilkeston 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rushden & D	23	18	4	1	63	21	58
Gloucester	24	14	4	6	49	28	46
Halesowen	22	13	6	3	42	27	45
Cheltenham	24	14	3	7	46	36	45
Worcester	22	12	5	5	39	25	41
Grantley	23	11	5	7	35	29	38
Merthyr	24	12	2	10	44	42	38
Hastings	23	9	7	7	42	36	34
Burton	24	9	7	8	36	33	34
Chelmsford	24	9	7	8	28	31	34
Baldock	24	8	7	9	36	31	31
Cambridge	23	9	4	10	32	34	31
Newport AFC	21	8	5	8	29	31	29
Crawley	22	6	9	7	28	31	27
Gravesend & N	19	7	3	9	31	34	24
Salisbury	21	7	3	11	29	38	24
Sudbury	20	6	5	9	32	34	23
Athersone	21	5	6	10	35	43	21
Dorchester	21	5	4	12	33	37	19
Ilkeston	22	4	5	13	23	55	17
VS Rugby	22	3	5	14	20	52	14
Stafford	23	3	2	18	33	64	11

Midland division: Bedworth 2 Grantham 2. Bridgnorth 1 Rothwell 3, Bury Town 0 Bilston 1, Hinckley Town 1 Dudley Town 1, Kings Lynn 3 Solihull 0; Moor Green 1 Evesham 0, Paget 2 Nuneaton 2; R C Warwick 0 Buckingham Town 4; Redditch 1 Sutton Coldfield 1, Stourbridge 1 Leicester United 1; Tamworth 7 Corby 0.

Southern division: Bashley 2 Erith and Belvedere 1, Clevedon 1 Forest Green 1, Newport IOW 4 Fisher 03 2; Poole 0 Havant 3, Trowbridge 1 Braintree 5, Waterlooville 0 Margate 4, Weston-super-Mare 1 Ashford 1, Weymouth 2 Fleet 1, Yate 2 Fareham 0.

Premier division: Aylesbury 2 Harrow 0; Bishop's Stortford 1 Dulwich 2, Boreham Wood 0 Molesey 1; Carshalton 2 Yeading 0; Chertsey 2 Purfleet 1, Enfield 0 Sutton United 2, Grays 3 Walton and Hersham 1; Hayes 3 Hendon 1, Hitchin 1 Yeovil 2, Kingstonian 0 Bromley 1, St Albans 2 Worthing 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Enfield	23	15	3	5	44	16	48
Dulwich	21	13	5	3	49	26	44
Boreham Wood	22	13	5	4	36	17	44
Yeovil	23	13	4	6	52	32	43
Carshalton	21	13	4	4	38	27	43
St Albans	23	11	7	5	41	20	40
Kingstonian	22	10	7	5	30	16	37
Harrow Bor	21	11	4	6	38	29	37
Hayes	22	9	9	4	32	19	36
Aylesbury	21	9	7	5	34	23	34
B Stortford	21	7	7	7	28	26	28
Chertsey	22	8	3	11	27	37	27
Sutton	20	6	8	6	33	29	26
Hitchin	20	6	5	9	19	30	23
Yeading	23	4	9	10	22	34	21
Worthing	21	5	5	11	26	44	20
Grays	20	4	5	10	25	34	18
Walton & H	20	5	2	13	21	39	17
Molesey	21	4	3	14	19	43	15
Hendon	19	3	5	11	16	35	14
Purfleet	18	2	6	10	19	35	12
Bromley	20	3	2	15	15	49	11

First division: Abingdon Town 2 Rutslip Manor 2; Barton 0 Aldershot Town 3, Berkhamsted 1 Whyteleafe 1, Heybridge Swifts 7 Barking 0; Leyton Pennant 3 Bognor Regis 2, Maidenhead United 4 Marlow 1, Oxford City 1 Uxbridge 0, Staines 3 Chesham 3; Thame 0 Billericay 1; Wembley 0 Basingstoke 2, W

هكذا من الأصل

Wharton's win falls below title standard

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY WHARTON, the European super-middleweight champion, from York, stayed on course for a third attempt at a world championship, but his performance against Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, on Saturday at Halifax did not convince his supporters that he could lift such a title.

Wharton was on the floor for the first time in his 13-year career and, by the time that the bout was stopped, in the sixth round, because Nardiello had a badly-cut right eye, he was trailing by three points, having lost the the first three rounds, won one and drawn one. Even though the bout was just beginning to turn Wharton's way, the Italian's boxing was so much better that another punch to put Wharton on the floor again was not out of the question.

Wharton's supporters were relieved when the referee called over the doctor to look at the cut and the bout was

Results 30

stopped, but they were sporting enough to say about their man: "He was lucky."

Wharton, too, was honest enough to say that he boxed badly but believed that his blows were beginning to have their effect and that he would have won in the end. He was probably right. By the fourth round, Nardiello was starting to complain about "infringements" by Wharton. Nardiello even went down on a non-existent punch at the bell for the end of the fifth round, but was told by the referee to get up and go back to his corner.

Wharton said: "I wasn't doing any work. I was just getting caught. I could see the shots coming, but could not get out of the way. It were stupid. If I could give myself a slap without hurting myself, I would. I think I was looking for the big punch. I need a rest."

Micky Duff, Wharton's manager, said that it was a "worrying performance", but one that showed fighting qualities. "He ran into a bad patch, stood up to it well, gritted his teeth and fought back," Duff said. "There was no panic in the corner when Henry went down. It wasn't as if he didn't know where he was. I knew he would get to him [Nardiello] in the end, given time."

Duff put Wharton's showing down to the fact that Nardiello was a late substitute and Wharton, who had been training to defend against Frederic Seillier, of France, had just four days to prepare for a southpaw.

Certainly, for three rounds, Wharton was not able to get past the extended right hand to land a solid punch. Nardiello simply kept moving round the ring, quickly picking Wharton off with the right and following through with some solid lefts that brought up a lump under Wharton's right eye as early as the first.

In the second round, Nardiello's eye was cut, but he was still up on his toes and enjoying giving Wharton a boxing lesson. In the third, as Wharton lunged desperately to catch up with Nardiello, the Italian dropped a perfectly-timed left onto the Englishman's chin and, to everyone's surprise, Wharton, who had stood up to Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank for 12 rounds, went down. He got up at three and had recovered fully by the time that the mandatory count was over.

By the fourth, Nardiello's cut had become a gash and he had begun to slow down enough to let Wharton back into the bout. By the fifth, Wharton had stopped the one-way traffic and was beginning to take charge unsteadily.

Wharton will have a rest now and will probably box again in May, against Seillier, and, if he gets past the tough Frenchman, he will become the mandatory challenger for the World Boxing Council title, held by Nigel Benn, whom he hopes to meet in the autumn. Wharton intends to go to Las Vegas to support Frank Bruno against Mike Tyson on March 16 and will start training on his return.

Ainslie aims for plain sailing in Savannah



Edward Gorman charts the upward course of a young British Olympic contender



Ainslie, 18, will be the youngest sailor to represent Britain in the Olympic Games in July. Photographs: Peter Bentley

It is hard to believe that Ben Ainslie is just 18 — apart, that is, from his refreshing enthusiasm and his shy disposition. His sailing CV reads more like that of a hardened competitor of 30 towards the end of his best years in small boats.

As Sue, his proud mother, suggested, there may never have been an 18-year-old in Great Britain who has participated in nine world championship series.

That is the least of it, though. Ainslie — recently named BT-YJA young sailor of the year — will be the youngest sailor to have represented Britain in the Olympic Games and one of the youngest British Olympians in any sport.

He is the world youth champion in the Laser class — Lasers are highly-manoeuvrable 13ft 10in single-sail dinghies — in which he will compete in Savannah in July. He was world champion twice in the less powerful Laser Radials and also British youth champion. Late last year, he won an Olympic trial at Weymouth, beating off strong challenges from Hugh Stiles and Mark Littlejohn to book his place as the sole British representative in the Laser class in Savannah.

'If he keeps his head, he'll be in the frame'

Today, his challenge for gold begins as he joins the Great Britain team for the pre-Olympic regatta in Miami from January 24 to 28. Like his more experienced team-mates, Ainslie will use Miami as a chance to test his racing skills against many of the sailors whom he will meet in July.

When Ainslie first thought of having a tilt at the Olympic Games, early last year, some advised him to aim at 2000 and miss Savannah. However, his performance on the water dictated otherwise and he is now seen by his Olympic coaches as a serious medal prospect.

Rod Carr, the team manager, has no doubt. "I would say he's the most determined youth sailor I've seen in nearly 20 years," he said. "He's the most talented sailor of his generation and, without a doubt, the most promising young Laser sailor in the world."

Like everyone else, Carr is impressed with Ainslie's quiet determination and enthusiasm for the job in hand, presenting him with none of the off-the-water problems that older competitors have. "I don't have the staleness issues with Ben," he said.

However, Ainslie's youth also means inexperience when coming up against the likes of Robert Scheidt, the world champion, from Brazil, and winner of the pre-Olympic series last year. At 23, he has five more years' experience than Ainslie to call on.

"The test is, is he capable of beating the more experienced sailors in the Olympics?" Carr said. "He has a history of rising to the occasion and the Olympics is a pretty big occasion to rise to. As long as he keeps his head together and doesn't get overawed by the whole thing, he'll be in the frame."

Ainslie's sailing career began in 1985, ironically after his parents' 40-foot yawl was wrecked in the Helford River during a sailing holiday in Cornwall. Local publicity about the loss of the boat led to an invitation for him to join Restronguet Sailing Club on the Fal estuary, where he started off in Optimists, the classic children's starter dinghies.

His parents then moved to Cornwall from Cheshire and, having started in the Parrots (beginners' class) — Ben quickly skipped the intermediate Barracudas and was soon in the top group, known as the Aces.

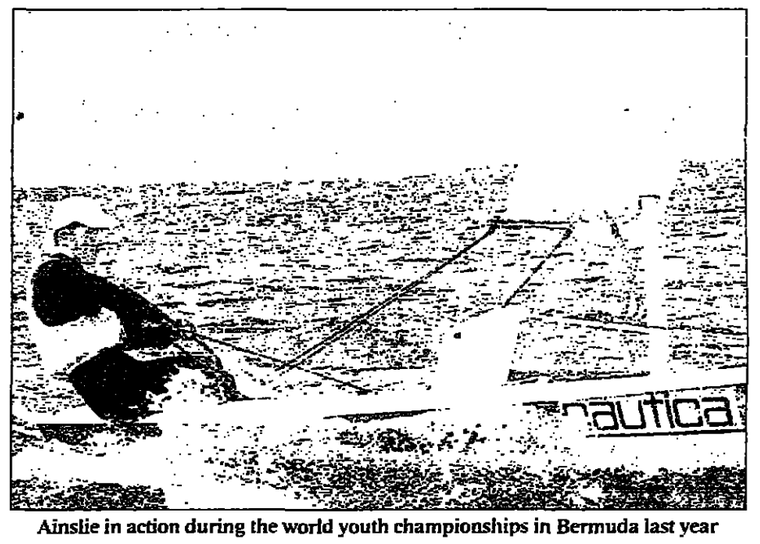
At his first nationals championships, in 1988, he finished 41st, but was fast enough on that performance to win the under-12 junior national title. The world championships in the Optimists class followed, his last challenge being in Argentina in 1992 when he was 31st, before he graduated to Laser Radials and the results started to improve dramatically.

He won the national and European youth titles in that class in 1992 and the next year captured the world championship in New Zealand. His parents played a vital role, giving him their full backing all the way, including approving his decision last year to abandon his A levels and concentrate on his Olympic bid.

Sue and Roddy Ainslie will themselves move to Savannah in April and remain there until the Games, to provide their son with a stable base in the run-up to the competition. His mother is surprised by the extent of her son's dedication.

"He takes it all terribly seriously," she said. "He never goes out and buys a McDonald's and things that he loves, and hardly ever drinks alcohol. He's absolutely dedicated from the moment he gets up to the moment he goes to bed. He's single-minded, but that's the way you have to be."

That singlemindedness displays itself in his thirst for success. "My goal is to win a gold medal," Ainslie said. "If not gold, then any medal would do."



Ainslie in action during the world youth championships in Bermuda last year

Colchester licensed to thrill

Nick Szczepanik is impressed with a 3-2 scoreline at Layer Road

WHEN the FA Cup spotlight is switched off, it seems that the lower reaches of the Endsleigh Insurance League are out of sight, out of mind, to many spectators. On Saturday, for example, with Ipswich Town, Norwich City and Southend United not playing at home, only 3,252 saw Colchester United consolidate their position among the third division play-off places with a 3-2 victory; but those who stayed away missed a treat.

It was high entertainment that encompassed a number of football's favourite cliches: "end-to-end stuff", "a game of two halves", and even "you must be joking, ref".

Steven Bennett's extravagance in handing out yellow cards meant an early departure for Sean Devine, of Barnet, the game's outstanding attacker, who received two, both for innocuous-looking offences. The referee's award of a penalty to Colchester in the sixth minute, Abrahams taking a theatrical tumble and Betts scoring, also appeared to inspire Colchester.

After 11 minutes, Pardew misjudged a long clearance and Abrahams unleashed a dipping volley from just inside the area that flew into the top far corner. The scorer followed that, six minutes later, with a low shot past Taylor after a neat move had put him clear.

However, if Colchester thought that they had the match won, Barnet had other ideas. The exotically-named Linvoy Primus ignited a comeback, volleying Cooper's header beyond Emberson's reach, and then Cooper himself headed home a rebound after his own volley had hit the Colchester crossbar. Barnet were twice denied an equaliser, first when Hodges's shot from 20 yards was inadvertently blocked by a colleague, then, seconds later, when McCarthy intercepted the same player's goalbound shot.

After such an energetic first half, it was hardly surprising that the second period fell a little flat, but both sides still enjoyed their share of chances.

"The type of football you see when you come and watch Barnet," Ray Clemence, their manager, said, describing his side's opening 15 minutes as "kamikaze defending."

"It's difficult at this level to score three or four goals and not concede any." Steve Wignall, the Colchester manager, said. "Fine, we must entertain people , but it's heart-attack time for a manager. It could have been 3-3 or 4-4; and last week we were called too defensive!"

Perhaps then, more lovers of attacking football should pay Colchester a visit. "I think so," Wignall said. "It's one of the cheapest entries in the league, and very few games here have been dull. Goals are flying in — at both ends."

COLCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): C Emberson — D Greene, T McCarthy, P Cawley, S Betts — C Fry, A Locke (sub: T Dennis, 45min), M Kinsella, D Gregory — P Abrahams (sub: K Duguid, 87), M Cheetham

BARNET (3-5-2): M Taylor — L Primus, A Pardew, D McDonald — S Galo, P Wilson, P Scott, L Hodges, G Thomas (sub: D Mills, 79) — S Devine, M Cooper

Referee: S Bennett

Yusuf triumphant after uphill struggle

BY JOHN GOODBODY

IN THE 23 years of the annual Knole Run, there can have been few more unexpectedly dramatic races on the wooded hills behind Sevenoaks School in Kent than the one run on Saturday.

With 37 boys' teams entering, this is as fiercely competitive a cross-country event as one can find in the independent schools' calendar. However, there was a clear pre-race favourite in Yacin Yusuf, the winner last year in a time that equalled the record for a course that wheels past the celebrated 15th century house, with its memories of the Bloomsbury Set.

Yusuf, from Trinity, Croydon, was second in the English Schools 1,500 metres last year, but excels particularly at cross country, "floating" up slopes with his smooth stride. That is usually what occurs.

Yusuf, 18, who hopes to represent Great Britain in the world junior cross-country championship in South Africa in March, has recently had trouble with a strained knee, but was so dominant last year that he was still expected to win without difficulty.

However, this handicap was compounded by a stomach upset during sections of the 5.92-mile course. He said: "I should have relaxed going uphill. Instead, I tried to push it and started feeling bad."

Twice, his pursuers, Oliver Laws, of Shrewsbury, the 1995 inter-counties under-15 champion, and Ed Matthews, of Winchester, third last year, passed him. Kieron Cooper, the master-in-charge at Trinity, was aghast.

Yusuf said: "He has done so much for us all. He was really panicking. I looked at his face, and he was so disappointed that I thought of him and all the training we had done. I just had to get up."

He sprinted past the pair twice to regain the lead. Yusuf eventually finished ten seconds clear of Laws, but immediately slumped to the ground, feeling the effects of his stomach upset. His time, 1min 39sec slower than in 1995, showed how much the illness had affected him.



Laws, 15, is already showing impressive promise. Bob Parker, the master-in-charge at Shrewsbury, said: "He has certainly got a racing brain.

Schools results 30

He gets into the right place at the right time."

Shrewsbury is probably the birthplace of organised cross country. There are written records going back to 1832, with weekly runs and immense ceremony.

A "huntsman" would appear dressed in a black cap with scarlet jersey and stockings. The Gentlemen of the Runs would follow the first division of the pack, running coatless and carrying bludgeons to ward off the locals, who delighted throwing stones at the boys. They would be pursued by the second division, clad in mortar boards and gowns.

The tradition may have died, but the excellence has continued. However, even Shrewsbury could finish only second to Winchester on Saturday. They easily took the team event, being led home by Matthews, who is captain of football but still enchanted by the demands of athletics.

He said: "The races are a real killer, but the satisfaction at the end is tremendous. It is all up to you, real 'do-or-die' stuff."

Perhaps Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, who proclaims the superiority of team games to activities demanding self-reliance and individual athleticism, might learn something when he next visits his old college.

Winchester have benefited from the training schedules of Bruce Tulloh, the 1962 European 5,000 metres champion, and the preparation of Colin Upton and John Brooks, their two masters-in-charge.

Upton said: "I am Mr Nice Guy, while John really puts the boys through it. Even his easy runs are notorious."

For the first time, there was a girls' race, over two miles, and Stamford High, who have always been highly-placed in the boys' race in recent years, were the inaugural winners, supplying the first two runners home.

Victorious was Harriet Thompson, 17, who was second in the 1995 UK tetrathlon (running, swimming, riding and shooting) championships and is an outstanding rider with the Pony Club. She finished ten seconds clear of Katie Turner.

Thompson, who is hoping to read veterinary medicine at Cambridge, said of her training: "I run better when I am studying hard. It probably makes a good contrast to the work ... and it helps relax me."

Cornish spirit wins the day

AFC Lymington 1
Torpoint Athletic 3

BY WALTER GAMMIE

TORPOINT Athletic, the Jewson South Western League club from Cornwall, reached the last 16 of the FA Carlsberg Vase for the first time with a hard-won triumph on the muddy acre upon which AFC Lymington have been ruling the roost in the Jewson Wessex League.

Lymington had won 20 matches in a row since losing at Christchurch on October 4, which served only to heighten the explosion of joy among the black-and-gold clad visiting contingent at the final whistle.

The home side had taken a gamble by playing Darren Pitter, 31 goals in 31 matches, who had injured a hamstring on New Year's Day. In the opening ten minutes, he had the chances to put Lymington ahead, but the goal machine spluttered alarmingly.

To make matters worse, Lymington gifted Torpoint a goal after 19 minutes, Mark Adams slicing the ball into his own net after Penhaligon had been unable to gather a cross by Cansfield.

Furious attacking by Lymington, committed defending by Torpoint: chasing, tackling and covering with a will, became the pattern. When a slick move, Ross converting Andy Knighton's cross, brought them level after an hour, Lymington might have expected to steam on to yet another victory.

They reckoned without Cornish spirit. Northcott, the Torpoint captain, got his men going forward again and, when his pass split the Lymington defence, Nardiello, professional footballer turned Newton Abbot policeman, unselfishly crossed for Cansfield to slide in a second.

An injury-time howler by Penhaligon, a Cornishman who started with Plymouth Argyle, who cleared only on to the shins of Cansfield, five yards away, allowed the busy striker to round off Torpoint's day with a flourish.

Peter Thesiger, the vice-chairman said: "When the draw for the last 32 was made, Torpoint was the name everybody wanted. Now we're on the map. It's a tremendous competition for small clubs."

His players' reward? "They're on a bonus. Chicken and chips on the way home," Thesiger said.

AFC LYMINGTON (4-4-2): G Penhaligon — M Adams (sub: J Harvey, 81min), G Hemp, K Green, D Knighton — A Knighton, R Carl (sub: T Pooke, 46), D Adams, P Morris — D Pitter (sub: G Davies, 46), D Ross.

TORPOINT ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Gammon — S Chambers, S Williams, W Hillson, M Gammon — R Daley (sub: C Ney, 87), A Cusack, D Northcott, M Davidson — G Nardiello (sub: N Haigh, 83), L Cansfield.

Referee: B Baker

Towers leave it late to rise to the challenge

IT TOOK London Towers 20 years to capture their first significant honour, but it is possible that Kevin Cadle's basketball squad will add at least one more item of silverware to the 7-Up Trophy before this season is out (Nicholas Harling writes).

Cadle and his players will be far from satisfied with the dramatic 90-84 success over Worthing Bears in Birmingham on Saturday. As Budweiser League leaders, they will expect to withstand the challenges of Sheffield Sharks and The Leopards. Also, there is a comfortable-looking National Cup quarter-final in prospect at Thames Valley Tigers on Wednesday. After that, the play-offs at Wembley Arena will surely beckon.

However, when, with little more than five minutes of the first half left, Worthing led 43-28, there looked likely to be only one winner. "I never gave up hope," Cadle admitted, "but it took a whole lot of ranting from me at half-time to change things around."

The sheer perseverence of Roger Duhaney, London's unsung captain, finally subdued Colin Irish, the Worthing player-coach, who had three of his side's seven three-pointers to his name at the break. He added only four more points to his half-time tally of 19.

The points scored by Steve Bucknall and rebounds grabbed by Martin Henlan had kept London in contention, but, in the latter stages, Tony Windless and Danny Lewis, their Americans, took over. Windless deservedly won the most valuable player award.

Tomba succumbs to Sykora

BATTLING performances by Thomas Sykora and Gunther Mader, the home favourites, plunged the Austrian skiing resort of Kitzbühel into a double celebration at the weekend. Sykora held off the challenge of Alberto Tomba, of Italy, to win the slalom and Mader triumphed in the combined event to claim his thirteenth World Cup victory.

In winning the downhill on Saturday, Mader became only the fourth skier to record victories in all four Alpine disciplines. Austrian joy was further enhanced by Hans Knaus, who came second, ahead of Bruno Kernen, of Switzerland.

Sykora, too, broke new ground, claiming his first World Cup success. Urged on by thousands of his compatriots, he recorded a two-run time of 1min 34.24sec. Tomba, who had been seeking his fourth consecutive slalom victory, was handicapped by a knee injury and finished second, 0.06sec behind Sykora.

Jure Kosir, of Slovenia, considered one of the best technical skiers on the circuit, but with only one win to reflect his promise, continued to be frustrated and finished third.

Lasse Kjus, of Norway, who leads the overall World Cup standings, missed the races at Kitzbühel after sustaining injuries in a crash during training for the downhill. However, Kjus, who celebrated his 25th birthday yesterday, remained at the top of the standings with 956 points, ahead of Tomba, who has 616.

Elfi Eder, of Austria, the leading the women's World Cup slalom rankings, failed to underline her country's superiority in Garmisch. Germany, when she came in behind Urska Hrovat, of Slovenia, in the slalom. Hrovat, who had come second in two World Cup slaloms this season, skied the two legs of the Gudiberg course in 1min 19.83sec to finish 0.18sec ahead of Eder.

Again, though, the home crowd had plenty to cheer, as Martina Ertl, of Germany, followed her second place in the super-giant slalom on Saturday with fourth place in the slalom, bolstering her lead over Anita Wachter, of Austria, in the overall World Cup standings. Wachter, the 1993 World Cup winner, followed her fifth place in the slalom at Maribor last week with a respectable seventh in Garmisch.

Another home-grown winner, Katja Seizinger in the super-giant slalom, failed to add significantly to her World Cup points total when she finished 27th in the slalom. She stays third overall.

Results, page 30

Predatory hawks circle over Edge Hall Road as talented young players blossom

Orrell build on Mason's solid groundwork

Orrell 38
Saracens 13

BY DAVID HANDS

THEY have persuasive tongues at Orrell. Threatened with the loss of Simon Mason to international squad training in Dublin, Sammy Southern's honeyed tones moved the Ireland selectors to grant Mason a later flight on Saturday. Mason's response was 23 points and, in all probability, security for his club in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

If Mark Evans, coach to beaten Saracens, is right, 12 points will be enough to ensure survival and Orrell stand on that mark after a second-half display indicative of the confident young talent that they possess at Edge Hall Road. Their problem now is to ensure that they keep it.

The hawks have been fluttering around Austin Healey — Leicester's interest in the scrum half has been confirmed — while Mason, Graeme Smith and Richard Matthias, the injured wing, have their admirers. "I reckon we have more talented players in the ten square miles round here, especially backs, than anyone else in the world," Phil Moss, the Orrell coach, said. "We have to tap into that resource."

There is little sentiment at Orrell. The ground-sharing proposals with Wigan have advanced and, according to Moss, the sooner the rugby union club can move to the rugby league stadium at Central Park the better. "Nothing is sacrosanct, nothing is forever," their programme noted on Saturday, observing that Edge Hall Road was at least the ninth venue where Orrell had taken root and that, if another change proved necessary, in rugby's open era, it should be made.

Orrell see the combination of sponsorship, attractive rugby and bigger capacity as the way forward, and hope that that will offer Peter Williams, their director of rugby, the wherewithal to keep such talent as Healey with the club. So much of Orrell's play hinges on the bubbling, pacy Healey, a final-year student in sports science at Leeds Metropolitan University, who sits on the replacement bench for England A against France on Friday.

It is England's loss that such players as Mason and Smith will not be alongside him. There has been a frantic search for wings this season, yet Mason, a full back playing wing for Ireland A on Friday, has opted for the land of his grandparents and Smith, an England Colt last season, is now playing in Scotland's under-21 side. Even Ian Wynn, the centre whose fluent play was so valuable an asset on Saturday, has opted for Scottish Exiles.

One brilliant visionary moment emphasised the confidence of these youths. Many a full back, catching a ball in his own 22 with the wind behind him, would have opted automatically for the clearance: Mason swivelled and passed to Healey who, with Luger alongside, made 60 metres. From the subsequent lineout, Wynn held up his pass magnificently. Luger made the extra man and Smith cantered over for the try that carried Orrell out of range.

From just such a move in the first half, Saracens provided the 90-metre interception, by Mason, that probably convinced Orrell that it would be their day. After the announcement at the start of the week that Michael Lynagh is to join them, this was returning to earth with a clatter for the London club, who hover just above the relegation zone.

Full results and league tables . Page 30

Lee was wide with two penalties and an attempted dropped goal, three pressure positions five metres from the Orrell line produced nothing, and Davies, their captain, was carried off on a stretcher. In fact, it was not a good day for captains. Davies has damaged medial ligaments in his right ankle and will not play again for several weeks; Manley, of Orrell, two months out with hamstring trouble, broke his jaw in a tackle on Chesney.

Both hookers received yellow cards, Scott for a casual poke at Botterman's head and Botterman for kneeing an opponent in the back, but it was a game more of frustration than of aggression. At one time, Brian Campsall, the referee, thought of issuing a general warning for persistent illegality at ruck and maul, and Saracens, missing two of their first-choice back row, were quite unable to achieve swift secondary possession.

Thus, the hard work of their lineout and of Ravenscroft in midfield went largely to waste. A try by Harries in the first minute after the interval kept them well in the hunt at 13-8, but then Mason went to work with his kicking. Smith's finishing complemented the work of his colleagues and we will not see a better pass from a centre this season than that by Wynn which pulled Smith towards the line for his third try.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Smith (3), Mason. Conversions: Mason (3). Penalty goals: Mason (4). Saracens: Tries: Harries, Chesney. Penalty goal: Tunningley.
ORRELL: S Mason; D Luger, I Wynn, L Tulgamala, G Smith; P Hamer, A Healey; J Russell, M Scott, P Mitchell, J Huxley, C Cusani, C Cooper, P Manley, P Anglesey. Manley replaced by S Bibby (53min).
SARACENS: A Tunningley; M Gregory, J Buckton, S Ravenscroft, P Harries; A Lee, S Davies; R Andrews, G Botterman, G Holmes, D Phillips, M Langley, C Yandell, A Phillips, A Diprose. Davies replaced by P Friel (22). Harries replaced by K Chesney (50).
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).



With defenders in vain pursuit, Harries, the Saracens wing, plunges over to secure a try in the corner as he is tackled in the first minute of the second half. Photograph: Marc Aspland

St Helens sparkle but regal Wigan claim spoils

St Helens 16
Wigan 25

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AT THE architecturally-praised McAlpine Stadium, St Helens constructed an appropriate try of towering splendour. It was worthy of victory in a compelling rugby league Regal Trophy final on Saturday, but St Helens's handiwork toppled in on them, undermined by errors and indiscipline, and it was Wigan, comparative artisans on the day, who walked away with the silverware.

Much as the banana-shaped roof trusses at Huddersfield criss-cross in the most improbable way, St Helens wove the most daring of patterns on a last tackle. Three times, they managed to turn the ball back, after encountering a dead-end Wigan defence, before the slippery Hayes, a ninth pair of hands in the move, found a shaft of light down the right.

That try brought the house down and was followed by another sumptuously-fashioned score for Newlove — lightning forks that Wigan, on the day, had no hope of matching. Yet they possessed an irrepressible will that ultimately undermined their Lancashire rivals.

It was not a day for scapegoats. Instead of criticising Scott Gibbs, for whom a raised elbow and last-minute dismissal was not the least of his problems, Eric Hughes, the St Helens coach, praised him and the rest of his young side for their unstinting effort.

Several Wigan players agreed with Hughes's view that one tackle out of a punishing 300 made the difference to their eighth Trophy success. Vila Matautia is formidable on the hoof, but the Samoan came to a shuddering halt under the posts near the end, blocked by a challenge from Gary Connolly that defied his dazed state from a gruesome mouth injury.



Paul: fleet-footed

Connolly, for all his clean-cut looks, is one of the sport's truly hard men.

There have been too few real demands of the Wigan character in recent finals, let alone the centenary season just ending, but, when in adversity, an innate winning instinct is their crutch. Down 8-6 at the break, the holders adopted a motto of "they shall not pass", an attitude that suffered a momentary lapse when the electric Cunningham extended an arm and plucked a try to produce a climactic finish. Otherwise, St Helens were repelled by sheer belligerence and then cut down by Henry Paul, whose outstanding footwork twice threw the defensive cover off balance for conclusive scores.

Not that the champagne flowed afterwards. There is the formality, to be completed tomorrow at home to Bradford, of a seventh successive championship. Then comes the defence of the Challenge Cup, the Super League in March and the best that the Australasian Super League can muster.

These are new and demanding times, for which St Helens are equipping themselves better than most. One day, they will beat Wigan when it matters, although not if Gibbs, inexplicably, releases a ball that he has covered over the line, as he did to allow Radlinski to snatch the comeback score. Nevertheless, with youngsters of the calibre of Cunningham — who won the consolation of the man-of-the-match award — Prescott and Hayes, that day might be sooner than some imagine.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Hayes, Newlove, Cunningham. Goals: Goulding (2) Wigan: Tries: Paul (2), Tuigamala, Radlinski. Goals: Paul (4). Dropped goal: Edwards.
ST HELENS: S Prescott; J Hayes, S Gibbs, P Newlove, A Sullivan (sub: A Northey, 47min); K Hammond, R Goulding, A Pereira, K Cunningham, I Pickavance (sub: V Matautia, 25), C Joynt, S Booth. D Busby (sub: Pickavance, 58).
WIGAN: G Connolly; J Robinson, V Tuigamala, K Radlinski, M Offiah; H Paul, S Edwards, N Cowie, M Hall, T O'Connor, S Quinnell (sub: M Dermott, 69), M Cassidy, S Houghton.
Referee: R Smith

Richards prepares for unlikely return

BY PETER BILLS

THE international rugby career that Dean Richards had privately assumed was over is likely to be resumed in the most dramatic of surroundings, against France in Paris on Saturday.

Richards, summoned from his Leicestershire home much to his surprise on Friday evening belatedly to join England's four-day training session at Bisham Abbey, looks set to replace the injured Ben Clarke for England's opening match of the five nations' championship at Parc des Princes. Such are the talismanic qualities of the Leicester No 8 that a large proportion of the nation will sigh with relief at his possible return. Such delight will not be shared on the other side of the English Channel.

Richards is almost certain to win his 40th cap because Clarke is struggling to overcome a muscle spasm in his groin. He underwent a scan during the England get-together, but nothing significant appeared. He has, though, been carrying the injury for some time and was unable to take any part in the full training session yesterday.

The surprise inclusion of Richards would mean yet another change to the England back row, which has been the subject of frequent disruption in the past 12 months.

Jack Rowell, the England manager, seemed yesterday to dismiss Clarke's chances of recovering in time to face France. Clarke had told the media that he was confident that the injury would clear up in time for him to play. However, Rowell's message moments later was nothing like as positive. "It looks like a complex injury," he said. "It has bamboozled the medical staff. I fear he might miss Saturday and need some time to rest. He cannot train and play and we want to make a decision by Wednesday." Of Richards, he added: "We could have gone for a youngster, but felt his experience would be invaluable in Paris."

Given that Tim Rodber, the original back-row replacement, also took no part in training yesterday because of ankle and knee injuries, Richards's place in Paris was all but guaranteed. His performance in the important Courage Clubs Championship victory at Bath last week was timely and signficant.

Corcoran ignites premature shindig at Sunbury

London Irish 21
London Scottish 20

BY BRYAN STILES

EMOTIONS were running high — "there are big guys in there with tears in their eyes", one Irish official announced to his jubilant countryfolk as he emerged from the home dressing-room to join in the celebrations after this right ceilidh of a match in Sunbury.

There was dancing on the pitch and high jinks in the bar when the referee finally ended the agony of added time and allowed the Irish to fill their boots with the dark nectar.

What was it, now? Had they won the cup? No.

Had they qualified to compete in Europe? No.

Had they captured the league title? No, it was not that, either.

This was a Courage Clubs Championship second division match, halfway through the season, with the title still a long way from being resolved. Neither team stands a chance of winning the division — Northampton look to have that prize tied up — but, with a bit of Irish luck, the exiles could be promoted as runners-up, with all the extra sponsorship that that is likely to attract.

This victory for the Irish on Saturday was a vital step in that direction, for it enabled them to oust their fellow exiles from second place and claim it for themselves on points difference. Beating their rival exiles was in itself a reason for a shindig, but the Irish feel that this win will be the decisive one as they have a slightly easier finish to the season.

There was such a clamour for places that the match was delayed for nearly 15 minutes to allow all the crowd in. With a couple of hundred still besieging the gates, it was decided to open the turnstiles and let them in free. An estimated 6,000 squeezed into the Sunbury ground, the only place in England where trayfuls of stout can be seen being passed up from the bar to the stands during the match to keep throats lubricated.

The proverbial luck of the Irish was much in evidence. They were outplayed by the Scots for most of the first half, when the visitors scored two of their three tries through Robinson, the full back.

A second-half try from Thompson was no more than the Scots deserved and it looked as if they were going to deny the Irish their celebrations, but Michael Corcoran was at his most accurate. He kicked seven penalty goals for the first time to carry his league total this season to well past 200 points, a mark that no other player has reached. The Irish owe a lot to the former football player, who was on Chelsea's and Crystal Palace's books. He kept his head while others around him were allowing the Scots to get the upper hand.

Halpin, the Irish captain and former Ireland prop, admitted that his team needs a big lineout forward and two big flankers if they do manage to reach the first division.

SCORERS: London Irish: Penalty goals: Corcoran (7). London Scottish: Tries: N Robinson (2), Thompson. Conversion: Stent. Penalty goal: Stent.
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; M Corcoran, R Henderson, P Flood, J Bishop, O Cobbe, T Ewington; J Fitzpatrick, R Kellam, G Halpin, P Irons, C Hall, D Peters, A Dougan, B Walsh. Henderson replaced by S Burns (29min).
LONDON SCOTTISH: N Robinson, G Thompson, F Harrold, R Eriksson, T Watson; I Stent, T Withers-Green; P Burnell, L Mair, T Robinson, M Duthie, D Orr-Ewing, A Nisbet, S Holmes, D Jackson, T Jankovich temporary replacement for Orr-Ewing (44-56)
Referee: G Hughes (Manchester).

Rotherham exact decisive revenge

Richmond 9
Rotherham 16

BY PETER BILLS

RICHMOND, or the Glenlivet Glorious Twelfth Richmond Club of Kew, as they will perhaps become known in the near future, squandered a fine chance to all but confirm their elevation to the enlarged Courage Clubs Championship second division next season.

A surprise defeat, only their second in the league all season, at the hands of opponents whom they had dispatched 43-6 on their own ground back in September, interrupted Richmond's assured stride towards promotion.

The likelihood is that, despite this setback on Saturday, emphatic as it was by two tries and two penalty goals to three penalty goals, Richmond will still go up. With four teams to be promoted, this will, in all probability, be viewed, come April, as a minor hiccup in a promotion season.

In more ways than one, though, Rotherham's visit to London told us more about their potential than Richmond's proven ability. Richmond made too many elementary errors to overcome doughty opponents who won an entertaining match up front. Their forwards excelled in the set scrums and driven mauls and, although their lineout work was slightly less formidable, their overall forward power was decisive.

Rotherham, together with Leeds, are demonstrating a strong desire to claim a place among the country's leading clubs. The West Yorkshire club has signed Phil Davies and Colin Stephens, the Llanelli pair, to bolster their ranks while Rotherham, 40 miles away, have recruited Steve Cottrell, of New Zealand, the Cambridge University captain, Desmond Timuavii, of Western Samoa, the flanker, and, if Halifax rugby league club consent, they will add John Bentley, the former England international wing at union and league.

They are also talking to Mike Umaga, the Western Samoa full back in the World Cup, and looking for a new training ground.

Paying for such costly expenditure is Mike Yarlett, the owner of a large local company. Already, Steve Cousins, the Rotherham manager, talks glowingly of the good habits that such players are encouraging in others at training nights. Rotherham have won five league titles in eight seasons and aspire to more. Yet, last season's fourth division champions have taken almost half a season to adapt to their step up.

On Saturday, they owed much to an outstanding performance by West, their captain, whose tackling and covering was of the highest order. Dudley was not far behind, crashing over for the first try and thoroughly frustrating Richmond's desire for fast second-phase ball.

Three penalty goals by Gregory put Richmond briefly ahead at 9-8, but Breakwell's second penalty goal and a thrilling 60-yard try, fashioned by Turner and finished by Hough, ended Richmond's chances.

SCORERS, Richmond. Penalty goals: Gregory (3). Rotherham: Tries: Dudley, Hough. Penalty goals: Breakwell (2).
RICHMOND: J Gregory; J Kottler, D Elliott, M Hutton, S Brown; A Boyd, B Short; J Foster, A Cuthbert, M Feldham, M Fitzgerald, G Sage, P Carr, P Della-Savina, T Benson. Kottler replaced by E Rowu (78min). M Strong temporary replacement for Cuthbert (62-71).
ROTHERHAM: R Heasolgrave; P Scott, T Turner, S Bunnell, S Hough, D Breakwell, D McIntyre, L Rice, R Wareham, S Coy, J Dudley, M Mills, B Richardson, C West, R Selbum.
Referee: G Ashton-Jones (East Midlands).

Newcastle banking on celebrity status

Alison Kervin reflects on the varying fortunes of two second division teams

When Newcastle kicked off their Courage Clubs Championship second division match against Nottingham on Saturday, all things were equal. Sir John Hall's hefty financial investment in Newcastle has not yet taken effect and the sides battled it out at the bottom of the table, emerging with a 24-24 draw.

This was the last league game that Newcastle will have to play without their big-name signings. By the time that their next league match comes round, on February 10, against Bedford, Andrew and Ryan will be in the side, along with Popplewell, the Ireland international, Walton, of Scotland, and Childs, the England A centre.

Newcastle are a team facing a glorious future, while Nottingham are looking back at a glorious past. When the faces turned to each other on Saturday, a draw was a suitable, and significant outcome.

Nottingham's past includes players like Moore, Andrew, Oti and Alan Davies, the coach: now, in the professional era, when players will be bought and sold to build successful teams, they are facing financial problems that have required a Rugby Football Union (RFU) loan. Nottingham still have some former internationals in their line-up, most notably Hodgkinson, the England full back, Gray, the former Scotland lock, and Rees, the former England flanker.

Whether these players will have enough skill to keep Nottingham in the second division next year remains to be seen. For this season, it will probably be Sir John's appeal to the RFU, to stop all relegation from the second division, that allows them to stay up.

On Saturday, the teams looked well-matched, with Nottingham taking the lion's share of the first-half honours and Newcastle dominating the second.

Nottingham had a 14-8 lead by half-time thanks to three Hodgkinson penalty goals and a try by Reed. Newcastle's points came from a Frankland try from a tapped penalty and a Cramb penalty goal.

In the second half, Newcastle scored a converted try through Arnold and three Cramb penalty goals, taking the score to 24-14. Then, in a dramatic final five minutes, Hodgkinson kicked a penalty goal, and a penalty try was awarded to Nottingham for a collapsed maul, which Hodgkinson converted to level the scores.

Newcastle's other celebrity signings are Tony Underwood, who becomes eligible for league action against Blackheath on February 17, and Armstrong and Weir, of Scotland, who are not eligible until March 30.

SCORERS: Nottingham: Tries: Reed, penalty try. Conversion: Hodgkinson. Penalty goals: Hodgkinson (4) Newcastle: Tries: Frankland, Arnold Conversion: Cramb. Penalty goals: Cramb (4)
NOTTINGHAM: M Gallagher, S Reed, G Harvey, R Bygraves, A Smallwood, S Hodgkinson, B Gabriel, M Fraser, I Grantham, A Jackson, B Denod, C Gray, J Brennan, L Jones, M Bradley
NEWCASTLE: J Wilkinson, M Wilson, J Fletcher, R Wilkinson, M Bluminet, R Cramb, G Robson, M Long, N Frankland, P Vanzonevlet, S Cassidy, F Mitchell, A Mckinley, R Metcalfe, R Arnold
Referee: D Chapman (Yorkshire)

Careless talk costs Pontypool dear

Pontypool 20
Dunvant 21

BY GERALD DAVIES

WITH six minutes to go, Pontypool were beating Dunvant comfortably and appeared the more likely candidates to be promoted to the Heineken League first division, having dropped down last season. In that brief period, however, the visitors recovered to score 14 points and snatch victory.

This is no time for Pontypool to feel nostalgic about the past that once saw them dominate Welsh rugby. This loss, against the leaders of the second division, forces the Gwent club to view with increasing unease the stiff incline that faces them between now and the end of the season. A victory against Dunvant after three unexpected losses would have alleviated their woes.

The season began well for them and gave them every hope that they would challenge once more for a place among the top 12 Welsh clubs and, who knows, earn a place in the Anglo-Welsh league and beyond. Failures against Llanharan, Caerphilly and Llandovery over the Christmas period, in addition to this loss on Saturday, make their future uncertain.

Pontypool lie third. Dunvant are 11 points ahead of them and Caerphilly, in second place, are five points better off. Pontypool have a game in hand on Caerphilly and, with the bonus points on offer for scoring tries, they may still secure promotion. Their position need not be so dire; they are allowing games to slip from their grasp unnecessarily.

Take this match. All their hard work had brought its just rewards. They were, in terms of possession and territory, in control. A try by Ward and three penalty goals by Williams, against a try by Mefyn Davies converted by Mark Thomas, gave them the lead at half-time, and they knew that they would play their favourite way — down the slope — in the second half. Within four minutes of the restart, they had gone further ahead with another penalty goal and, at the end of the third quarter, extended their lead again when Williams kicked his fifth penalty goal.

Perhaps they felt that it was too easy. At any rate, they hit a brick wall. After a series of short penalties, Dunvant eventually found a gap for Ceri Davies to crash his way over. Thomas converted.

This still left some light between the home team and the visitors, but someone in the Pontypool side failed to control his tongue when the conversion was being taken, which left the referee no option but to give the visitors the benefit of a penalty from the restart. So, instead of being able to force Dunvant back from the kick-off, it was the visitors who created the advantage. One more powerful thrust and Mefyn Davies got the try, which Mark Thomas converted. From having no points at all, Dunvant, with their three tries, were rewarded with a bonus point as well.

SCORERS: Pontypool: Try: Ward. Penalty goals: Williams (5) Dunvant: Tries: M Davies (2), C Davies. Conversions: Thomas (3).
PONTYPOOL: D Meredith, K Walker, P Taylor, D Lynch, A Ward, J Williams, W Morris, A Dibble, J Thomas, M Thomas, C Bilen, L Mruk, J Subsey, G Green, C West. Mruk replaced by D Evans (57min); Walker replaced by P Armstrong (70); Green replaced by R Harvey (70)
DUNVANT: M Thomas; M Sutton, G Davies, W Lloyd, B Taylor; D Morgan, C Hutchings, R Williams, M Davies, R Llewellyn, D Ntola, J Bowden, S Dixon, C Davies, C Butler
Referee: B Williams (Port Talbot).

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Kate Edgley gets hooked on Ultimate, the sport that is a cross between American football and netball

STEVE McPARLAND



Exhilarating and dynamic, men players have the advantage of speed and height

JONATHAN HOPE



Women players in the 1995 World Cup championships at Street, Somerset: the aim is to encourage more women and schools to take up the game

A great game for show-offs and no referee

First things first. Kristine Bater, Canterbury College lecturer, wanted a name for the new Ultimate team that she was setting up: Bob Mamook's Chicken Warriors, Wile E and Friends and The Tip Top Hillbillies were just some of the suggestions on offer.

Ultimate — often wrongly called by the trade name Frisbee — has its origins in the 1960s and team names are just one of the tell-tale signs. The game was invented in 1968 by a group of Columbia High School students in New Jersey who wanted to create an "alternative" sport, which was athletic but not aggressive.

It is a simple, non-contact game with few rules, often described as a hybrid between American football and netball. Points are scored when any player catches the disc in the end zone. There is no referee, only a philosophy to abide by the spirit of the game. Decisions are made by consensus.

We did not come to a decision about the name. Everyone was too busy practising their backhands and sidearms (the forehand throw) from one end of Hartsdown Leisure Centre's gym in Margate to the other. I tentatively joined in and, thanks to Kris's guidance on how to hold the disc — placing of the thumb, forefinger and middle finger are vital — I managed not to make quite the fool of myself that I had feared.



When Kris rounded everyone up, a couple of the experienced players could not resist continuing with impressive demonstrations of hammer and knife throws. What looks like a casual but forceful overhead chuck is, in fact, an extremely skilful and accurate pass, executed with a final flick of the wrist.

The result, in the case of the hammer, is the disc sliding through the air upside down. With a release action resembling its literal equivalent, the knife throw spins the disc at 90 degrees to earth, sending it heavenward before it arches down to the target (a teammate) with breathtaking precision.

As the immodesty of the name suggests, Ultimate is a great game for show-offs. Its simplicity allows skills to be displayed to the full which kept me rapt at my introduction to the game — watching the British championships a week earlier.

Twenty-four teams had congregated at Radley College, Oxford, and the ease with which the country's best players controlled and manipulated the disc was awesome. Played outdoors, the seven team members must be extremely fit and fast not only to cover the 120-yard pitch but also to get free. Man-to-man marking is the most common defence. Self regulation did not mean showing obsequious generosity to the opposition, as I half expected, merely that a dispute was resolved by giving the disc back to the previous player.

The dress code — complete with long hair and bandannas — gave a strong whiff of hippydom at odds with traditional sporting culture. Yet this was sport at its most exhilarating and dynamic. Throws of 100 yards, vertical leaps and horizontal dives — or layouts — all kept my adrenalin flowing.

Glancing down the hill to the adjacent golf course, I caught sight of three figures pulling trolleys across the green and wondered how golf had become such a popular spectator sport.

I left the British championships with the bug. I had to have a go. Kris's fledgling team, playing five-a-side indoors, seemed a good starting point. We were divided into three teams, and took turns to keep the bench warm. Being placed on the same side as the two tallest men turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I did not touch the disc for the first two points.

So it went on. I tore around the court, shaking off my marker, but most of the time to no avail. Realising that the spirit of the game did not equate to chivalry, I abandoned shrinking violet pretensions and started yelling for the disc. It worked: and, as long as I remembered the golden rule of catching the disc with two hands — they even do that at top level when possible — I was no liability. I kept my passes short and unambitious and only once sent a sidearm pass cack-handedly to the floor. My moments of glory came on two occasions when, miraculously, I found the disc sliding into my grip in the end zone.

As with most sports in which height and speed are fundamental, women are at a disadvantage, according to Liz Bourne, the British Ultimate Federation's (BUF) women's co-ordinator.

Only two women's teams exist at present — London-based Bliss and Twin Peaks from the Midlands — as most women players join mixed teams. Now, Bourne wants to encourage more and has begun women-only training sessions around the country. In the latest issue of *Ultimatum*, the sport's every-so-often magazine, Bourne writes: "It is generally accepted that women playing in women-only teams develop better skills and, most importantly, confidence. Even the more experienced women playing in this country find that, when playing with a mixed team, their skills are not used to their full potential."

When Bourne began playing Ultimate, six years ago, there were only a handful of other women players in the country, but now she believes that there are enough to form four or five more teams.

While Bourne is keen to break the mixed mould, Sam Neilson, the BUF national director, wants to expand Ultimate beyond its traditional university base. He is battling to gain Sports Council recognition and funding for the game so that he can start a schools development programme.

"We want to open doors so that other people can play, particularly children," Neilson said. "It's a very good game for schools because it encourages responsibility on the sports field. In most sports, you can think that if the referee doesn't see something, it's OK. Not in Ultimate."

If you are fit and athletic, the chances are you would enjoy playing Ultimate, and once you have tried, the lure to learn to throw well is strong.

FACTBOX

For more information about Ultimate, contact: British Ultimate Federation, PO Box 1, Swan House, Leicester, LE9 5ZW: BUF national director Sam Neilson: 01926 864276; e-mail: serai@csv.warwick.ac.uk *Ultimatum* is available from Paul Hurt 0181-684 2000, e-mail: aflitho@macline.co.uk The five-a-side women's indoor British championships take place at Aston University in Birmingham on January 27 and 28. Women players from mixed teams will form most of the contestants, but new players are being invited to take part.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

LUTON: Reebok Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships: Men: 11.7km: 1, J Downes (Middx) 36min 07sec; 2, D Bannister (North-East Counties) 36 14, 3, T Dickinson (Lancs) 36 17, 4, M Cox (Lscs) 36 33, 5, S Duval (Staffs) 36 39, 6, A Mussett (Essex) 36.44. Teams: 1, North-East Counties 113, 2, Kent 199, 3, Yorkshire 239, 4, Northern Ireland 264, 5, Greater Manchester 271, 6, Avon & Somerset 314. Women: 5.6km: 1, S Rigg (Cheshire) 19.08, 2, S McGeorge (Sussex) 19.09, 3, E Talbot (Beds) 19.12, 4, S Bentley (Yorks) 19.22, 5, A Hulley (Yorks) 19.25, 6, H Heasman (Greater Manchester) 19.25. Teams: 1, Yorkshire 99, 2, North-East Counties 303, 3, Greater Manchester 326, 4, Hampshire 351, 5, Surrey 383, 6, Essex 442.

CROSS COUNTRY: Portsmouth: Reebok Students cross country league: Men: 1, D Turk (Oxford Univ) 31min 43sec, 2, A Hart (Oxford Univ) 32.09, 3, P Bristow (Bristol Univ) 32.35. Team: 1, Exeter University. Women: C Mingel (Bristol Univ) 18.04. Team: Bristol.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Puma Indoor Sprint meeting: 60m: Men: 1, J Fergus (Belgrave) 6.5, 2, R Burke (Shaftesbury Barnet) 7.0, 3, J King (Wolverhampton & Bilston) 7.0. Women: 1, E Rennalds (Australia) 7.6, 2, E Mckenzie (Ealing, Southall & Middlesex) 7.7, 3, A de Jesus (Unattached) 7.7.

AMOREBIETA, Spain: IAAF World Challenge. Men. 10.85km: 1, J Machuka (Ken) 31.57, 2, D Komon (Ken) 32.06, 3, J Kimani (Ken) 32.06, 4, A Benedict (Tanz) 32.06, 5, J Kamais (Ken) 32.14, 6, P Mosima (Ken) 32.17. Leading standings: 1, Kamais 74pts, 2, Mosima 51, 3, S Korona (Ken) 47. Women: 5.5km: 1, D Tulu (Ken) 18.38, 2, R Cheruiyot (Ken) 18.44, 3, L Cheromei (Ken) 18.50, 4, L Fidalgo (Rom) 18.55, 5, L Subano (Ken) 19.06, 6, J Vaquero (Spl) 19.08. Leading standings: 1, Cheruiyot 91; 2, Fidalgo 72, 3, G Wami (Eth) 54.

ROAD RUNNING: Port Talbot: Richard Burton. 10km Men: 1, S Brace (Bridgend & Wales) 30min 16sec; 2, I Hudspath (Morpeth & North) 30.19, 3, S Knight (Cardiff) 30.21, 4, K McCluskey (Saltord & North) 30.30. Team: Swansea. Veterans: M Rees (Swansea & Wales) 30.38. Team: Swansea. Inter-area teams: 1, North 16, 2, Wales 24, 3, South 54. Women: 1, W Orr (Cardiff & Wales) 34.53, 2, D Percival (Canterbury & South) 35.51, 3, F Gill (Bridgend & Wales) 36.11. Team: Sospan. Usneth Veteran: J Moorelake (Invicta East Kent & South) 37.35. Inter-area teams: 1, North 15, 2, Wales 15, 3, South 19. Hastings: 10km: Men: 1, B Royden (Medway) 30min 50sec, 2, N Gates (Brighton and Hove) 31.09, 3, M Forder (GEC Avionics) 32.19. Team: Brighton and Hove. Women: J Bourton (Crowborough) 39.47. Team: Hastings Runners.

BADMINTON

TAIWAN: Taipei Open tournament: Finals: Men: Singles: D Jong (China) bt R Sidek (Mas) 15-11, 15-4. Doubles: A B Inanto and D Kantono (India) bt P-G Jonsson and P Axelsson (Swe) 15-6, 15-7. Women: Singles: S Susanti (India) bt Ye Zhaoying 11-5, 11-2. Doubles. G Jun and G Fe (China) bt *Kim Shih-Young and Kim Mee-Hyang (Kor)* 15-8, 15-3. Mixed doubles: R Olsen and M Soegaard (Den) bt S Man and L Jianjun (China) 15-3, 7-15, 15-12.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 103 Minnesota 94; Toronto 106 Washington 100; Atlanta 108 Boston 105; Detroit 91 New Jersey 80; Sacramento 119 New York 111; Chicago 120 Philadelphia 93; Charlotte 103 Dallas 83; San Antonio 106 Orlando 105; Portland 118 Denver 117; Vancouver 89 Miami 85; Houston 115 LA *Clippers 104*

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby 74 Leicester 80

7UP TROPHY: Final: London 90 Worthing 84

BOWLS

DENNY CUP: Sixth round: Desborough (Maidenhead) 84 British Cello 78; Cumbria 95 Black-pool B 82; Tye Green 83 Cambridge C 81; Cyphers 103 Dolphin 65; Sunderland 90 Boston 68; Teignbridge 82 W Berks 70; E Dorset 95 Crystal P 50; Acle 84 Avon V 66.

WEST OF SCOTLAND STADIUM: CIS Insurance Scottish Indoor Championship: Finals: Junior: Singles: C Richmond (Auchinleck) 21 C Young (East Fife) 18. Pairs: Cumbernauld (T Sauer and H Duff) 20 Bamfield (A Ross and A Marshall) 18. Whitelnch (J McLean, D Watson and M McDonald) 13 Bamfield (N Carge, G McIntosh and C Davidson) 12. Fours: Prestwick (I Gourlay, S Reid, E Vorsterman and D Gourlay jun) 14 East Lothian (D Logan, J Allan, I Bell and G Robertson) 13. Senior fours: Edinburgh (C Dolan, W Rutherford, I McAlandis and E Miller) 19 Lanarkshire (T Hamilton, G Graham, T *DAwes and W McKenzie) 14. Two bowls* pairs: Auchinleck (C Richmond and T Woods) bt Mcilkithan (D Peacock and P Conlan) 7-5, 2-9, 7-6.

BOXING

NORTHBRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE, Halifax: European Super-middleweight Championship (12rds): Henry Wharton (York, champion) bt Vincenzo Nardiello (It) rsc 6th. Heavyweight (8rds): Geoff Hunter (Manchester) drew with Slick Miller (Doncaster). Cruiserweight (8rds): Denzil Browne (Leeds) bt Albert Call (Grimsby) pts. *Super-middleweight (8rds)*: Mark Baker (Sidcup) bt Mark Dawson (Burton) tko 3rd. Light-middleweight (6rds): Lee Murtagh (Leeds) bt Peter Varnavas (Burnley) pts. Lightweight (6rds): Alan Bosworth (Northampton) bt Jason Blanche (Leeds) pts. Featherweight (8rds): Michael Alldis (Crawley) bt Gary Burrell (Kirkcaldy) rsc 7th.

TRAFFORD PARK, Manchester: Vacant British Light-middleweight Championship (12rds): Ensley Bingham (Manchester) bt Gilbert Jackson (Battersea) rsc 3rd. Super-middleweight (6rds): Lee Whitehead (Swindon) bt Elwen Brooks (Doncaster) pts. Welterweight (6rds): Ricky Sackfield (Clifton) bt *John O Johnson (Nottingham)* pts. Light welterweight (6rds, final elimination for British championship): Paul Burke (Preston) bt Cham Joof (Bristol) rsc 2nd. (4rds): Mark Winters (Co Antrim) bt Rick North (Grimsby) pts. Lightweight (6rds): Mark Haslam (Manchester) bt John Hamson (Devon) pts. Featherweight (6rds): Paul Griffin (Ireland) bt Jason Thomas (Merthyr Tydfil) rsf 2nd.

MIAMI: World Boxing Association Light-welterweight championship (12rds): Juan Martin Coggi (Arg) bt Frankie Randall (US, holder) tko 9th. World Boxing Association Junior-flyweight Championship (12rds): Carlos Murillo (Pan) bt Hi-Yong Choi (S Korea, holder) pts.

SAINT-ETTIENE: World Boxing Council Light-heavyweight Championship (12rds): Fabrice Tiozzo (Fr, holder) bt Eric Lucas (US) pts.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN: Non-title Light-heavyweight bout (12rds): Roy Jones Junior (US) bt Merqui Sosa (Dom) rsc 2nd.

CRICKET

One-day international

Sri Lanka v West Indies

PERTH (West Indies won toss) Sri Lanka beat West Indies by seaven runs

SRI LANKA

S Jayasuriya lbw Gibson	28
R Kaluwitharana b Gibson	50
A Gurusinha c Browne b Gibson	5
A de Silva run out	1
H Tillakaratne c Browne b Gibson	0
R Mahanama b Bishop	50
S Ranasunga b Hooper	5
N Dharmasena lbw b Walsh	16
C Vaas c Ambrose b Gibson	21
E Upashantha not out	8
R Pushpakumara run out	5
Extras (lb 4, w 4, nb 5)	13
Total	202

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-80, 2-89, 3-90, 4-91, 5-92, 6-121, 7-161, 8-176, 9-193, 10-202

BOWLING: Ambrose 8-2-32-0, Walsh 9-0-34-1, Bishop 10-2-46-1, Gibson 10-1-40-5, Hooper 10-0-33-1, Simmons 3-0-13-0

WEST INDIES

P V Simmons b Upashantha	5
S L Campbell c Vaas b de Silva	20
S Chanderpaul c Gurusinha b de Silva	44
R B Richardson run out	27
C L Hooper c Gurusinha b Dharmasena	1
R Holder c Browne b Jayasuriya	38
C Browne c Pushpakumara b Vaas	22
O Gibson stpd Kaluwitharana b de Silva	19
I Bishop run out	4
C Ambrose not out	6
C Walsh not out	3
Extras (lb 3, w 4, nb 8)	15
Total (8 wts, 50 overs)	186

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-51, 3-65, 4-67, 5-114, 6-131, 7-160, 8-171, 9-176

BOWLING: Vaas 9-0-27-1, Pushpakumara 8-2-21-0, Upashantha 6-0-31-1, Dharmasena 7-2-22-1; de Silva 10-0-43-3, Jayasuriya 10-1-39-1

Man of match: R Kaluwitharana (Sri Lanka)

GOLF

TUCSON, Arizona: Nortel open tournament: Leading third round scores (US unless stated): 204: D Toms 69, 66, 69. 205: R Black 68, 71, 66. 206: J Edwards 67, 67, 72, P Mickelson 69, 66, 71. 207: L Janzen 69, 72, 66, R Lohr 70, 71, 66, F Funk 70, 69, 68, B Lietzke 71, 68, 68, D Pruitt 66, 73, 68. R Estes 69, 67, 71. 208: J Maggert 73, 68, 67, C Strange 68, 73, 67, R Tway 69, 71, 68. 209: M O'Meara 68, 74, 67, J Wilson 70, 72, 67, S Verplank 68, 73, 68, J Morse 67, 71, 71, M Hulbert 69, 68, 72. 210: K Fergus 71, 72, 67, M Bradley 69, 73, 68, L Nelson 65, 77, 68, W Austin 69, 72, 69, J Daley 73, 68, 69, C Beck 72, 69, 69, L Roberts 68, 72, 70, O Urresti 68, 70, 72, S Pate 68, 69, 73, J Gallagher 70, 66, 74, G Waite (NZ) 70, 67, 73.

MOUNT IRVINE BAY: BWIA Tobago Pro-Am tournament: Selected second round scores (GB), 136: A Sherborne 68, 68. 141: R Boxall 67, 74. 142: S Bonomley 68, 74. 144: W Longmuir 74, 70. M Poxon 73, 71. 145: P Campbell 73, 72. 146: R Chapman 72, 74; R Ellis 71, 75. 147: D R Jones 73, 74. 150: G J Brand 76, 74. I McInally 78, 72.

ORLANDO, Florida: LPGA Tournament of Champions: Leading third round scores (US unless stated): 205: L Neumann (Swe) 67, 66, 73. 213: M McGeorge 69, 74, 70. 215: L Davies (GB) 72, 72, 71. 217: M Nause 68, 74, 75. 218: K Webb (Aus) 71, 73, 74. 219: B King 69, 80, 70; P Sheehan 70, 77, 72; C Johnson 72, 73, 74. 220: D Coe-Jones (Can) 74, 77, 69; L Kiggens 71, 74, 75. 221: D Pepper 76, 73, 72, J Geddes 74, 74, 73, W-S Ko (Kor) 76, 70, 75, B Daniel 75, 71, 75. 222: T Green 72, 76, 74, J Udsack 73, 76, 73, B Thomas 70, 78, 74, B Iverson 75, 70, 77. 223: A Nicholas (GB) 72, 77, 74, K Robbins 73, 73, 77, G Graham (Can) 76, 71, 76. 224: *J Carner 76, 73, 75, D* Eggering 72, 80, 72, B Mucha 74, 78, 72, V Skinner 73, 76, 75, M B Zimmarman 75, 72, 77. 225: P Bradley 73, 74, 78, N Lopez 75, 73, 77, D Andrews 77, 76, 72, M McGann 74, 74, 77.

HANDBALL

STOCKHOLM: Men's World Cup: Final: Sweden 23 Russia 21.

HOCKEY

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL (Bisham Abbey): Great Britain 1 Malaysia 0.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford 3 Lions 1, Beckenham 2 Woking 0; Bournemouth 0 Wimbledon 0; Fareham 5 Newbury 1, Gore Court 2 Spencer 0, Maidenhead 0 Chichester 2, Old Kingstonians 0 Anchorians 2, Old Walcountians 0 Lewes 7, Oxford Hawks 4 Wokingham 1; Winchester 1 High Wycombe 1.

Hampshire/Surrey: Basingstoke 0 Andover 0, Blandford 4 Southampton 3, Cheam 0 Epsom 2, Dulwich 1 Barnes 0; London University 1 Purley 3, Old Cranleighans 2 Orpington 2, Old Edwardians 2 Perelli 1, Old Whitgiftians 2 Camberley 0; Oxted 1 Walton & Weybridge 0, Petersfield 1 Old Mid Whitgiftians 4, Kent/Sussex: Belvedere 3 Tulse Hill 1, Bexley Invicta 4 Bexleyheath 3, Blackheath 3 Brighton 2, Crawley 2 Worthing 8, Herne Bay 1 Tunbridge Wells 2, Horsham 2 Old Williamsonians 3, Marden Russets 2 Sevenoaks 0, Middleton 7 Old Beccehamians 2, Old Bordenians 1 Mid Sussex 4; Old Holcombeans 3 Bognor 0.

ENGLISH INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool A (Pendeswell Worcester): Stourport 9 Cannock 7, Firebrands 4 Barford T 11, Doncaster 3 Hull 6; Stourport 16 Firebrands 4, Cannock 11 Doncaster 8; Barford Tigers 6 Hull 4, Doncaster 3 Stourport 13, Barford 9 Cannock 2, Hull 9 Firebrands 4. Leading Standings: 1 Stourport 9, 2 Barford 9, 3 Hull 6, Pool B (East Grinstead): East Grinstead 9 WLIHE 7, O Loughtonians 13 Redbridge 3, St Albans 12 Leominster 4, WLIHE 6 Loughtonians 9, E Grinstead 12 St Albans 8, Redbridge 11 Leominster 7, St Albans 7 WLIHE 6, E Grinstead 12 Redbridge 3, Leominster 1 Loughtonians 16. Standings: 1 Loughtonians 9, 2 E Grinstead 9, 3 St Albans 6.

MEN'S CLUBS: Blackburn 2 Dailey 2, Harleston M 1 Peterborough 2, Ipswich 0 *Blueharts 3, Ipswich II 4 Chelmsford 5*, Issa 6 Taunton V 2, Olton WW 3 Bournville 2, Oxford Univ 6 Durham Univ 2, Sheffield 3 Ben Rhydding 1, WGC 0 Crosfyn II 3, West Glos 3 Robinsons 4.

WOMEN'S CLUBS: Blackburn 3 Ormskirk 0, Bournemouth 0 Exmouth 0, Colwyn B 4 Neston 1, Lansdhere 0 St Pagans 1, Olton 9 Redland 0, Poynton 6 Pinnours 1, Reading 1 O Loughtonians 2, Sheffield 1 Clarnson R 1, Woking 4 Worthing 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Rangers 4 *Philadelphia 0, Boston 3 New Jersey 2*, Montreal 3 St Louis 3 (OT); San José 10 Pittsburgh 8, Tampa Bay 4 Ottawa 1; Vancouver 5 Toronto 2; Detroit 4 Washington 2; Edmonton 5 Buffalo 4 (OT).

BRITISH LEAGUE. Premier division: Basingstoke 4 Newcastle 4. *Fife 9 Nottingham 2*, Sheffield 9 Durham 3, Slough 4 Milton Keynes 9. First division: Billingham 4 10 Murrayfield 6, Dumfries 2 Swindon 7, Guildford 13 Chelmsford 5, Paisley 3 Manchester 6, Peterborough 7 Medway 5; Telford 14 Solihull 4.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Premier division: North: Sheffield 9 Cheadle 21; Hulmeians 6 Boardman and Eccles 13: O Waconians 10 Heaton Mersey 17, Mellor 5 Stockport 10, Timperley 10 Cheadle Hulme 8.

GUILDFORD: Women's triangular tournament: Beckenham 4 Guildford 4, Beckenham 1 Centaurs 9; Centaurs 9 Guildford 2.

RALLYING

TAMBACOUNDA, Senegal: Granada to Dakar Rally: 15th stage: 35km: Cars: 1, A Vatanen and G Picard (Fin & Fr, Citroen) 19min 54sec; 2, B Sebv and D Serleys (Fr, Mitsubishi Pajero) at 02:12. 3, P Lartague and M Perin (Fr, both Citroen) 02:31. 4, J-P Fontenay and B Musmara (Fr, Mitsubishi Pajero) 02:38. 5, K Shinozuka and H Magne Lipn & Fr, Mitsubishi Pajero) 04:31. Motorcycles: 1, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) 18min 40sec. 2, F Meoni (It, KTM) at 00:01, 3, O Gallardo (Sp, KTM) 01:02, 4, M Chiess (Sp, KTM) 01.09. 5, M Pilet (Fr, KTM) 01:13. Final standings: Cars: 1, Lartague and Perin 65hr 44min 36sec, 2, J-P Wambergue and F Gallagher (Fr & GB, both Citroen) at *1 11 54, 3, Fontenay and Musmara 1.42.13*. 4, Vatanan and Picard 1.49:53; 5, S Serva and J Puig Sans (Sp, both Citroen) 3:16:45. Motorcycles: 1, E Oriol (It, Yamaha) 73hr 31min 03sec; 2, Arcarons at 1:05:45, 3, C Sotelo (Sp, KTM) 6 48:09, 4, G Jimmink (Holl, KTM) 6:44 53; 5, R Salnct (Fr, KTM) 7.35:38.

SAILING

MOOLOOLABA, Australia: World Catamaran Championships: Final leading standings: 1 R Gaebler and F Parlow (Ger) 50pts; 2 E Leon and J Lus Estevez (Sp) 80.75; 3 D Bundock and J Forbes (Aus) 64.25, 4 M Nyberrg and M Louden (Swe) 67.75; 5 M Booth and A Landenberger (Aus) 75.75.

SCHOOL SPORT

JUDO: Girl's International (GB names first): Great Britain A 6 South Africa 1. Over 72kg: M Wilkes bt J Butcher. Under 72kg: V Adams bt C Klopper. Under 66kg: C Plowman bt S Strydom. Under 61kg: D Read lost to J Theunessen. Under 56kg: J Brien bt E Kellerman. Under 52kg: K Cuss: bt M Jacobs. Under 48kg: V Dunne bt A Peters. *Great Britain B 5 South Africa 0*. Over 72kg: K Beetle bt J Butcher. Under 72kg: E Weller bt C Klopper. Under 66kg: H Webster drew with S Strydom. Under 61kg: R Bailey drew with J Theunessen. Under 56kg: M Milner bt Z Kellerman. Under 52kg: A Hunter bt M Jacobs. Under 48kg: M Joyce bt A Peters.

FENCING: Doyne Cup (German School, Richmond): 1, P Forrester (Sussex House), 2, J Bonnerl (Salle Paul), equal 3, O Winkworth (Cyrano) and M Baker (Boston), 5, D Mansur (Sussex House), 6, T Parris (Bedford), 7, T Bruce (Sussex House), 8, O Hess (Sussex House).

SHINTY

GLENMORANGIE CHAMANACHD QUALIFYING CUP: North Area: Semi-finals: Glengarry 1 Inverness 2, Kilmallie 2 Lochaber 0. Strathdearn Cup: Semi-final: Loval 2 Lochbroom 0, Marine Harvest League: Premier Division: Kingussie 8 Glenurquhart 3, Newtonmore 1 Fort William 3. First division: Beauly 4 Strathglass 1, Lovat 4 Kinlochshiel 2. Seconddivision: Aberdeen Uniy 1 Glenurquhart 6, Skye 6 Fort William 3. Third division: Boleskine 0 Lochaber 2; Kinglochshiel 6 Kinonteg 4; Strathglass 5 Glengarry 2. South Area: Semi-finals: Glenorchy 7 Kintyre 0; Strachur 4 Taylorlh 1.

SNOOKER

NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL, Blackpool: Sweater Shop International open: Final qualifying round: G Doll (Scot) bt D Fowler (Eng) 5-1; M Williams (Wales) bt J Meaher (Eng) 5-1; K Payne (Eng) bt T Chappel (Wales) 5-2; K Broughton (Eng) bt A Dewes (Wales) 5-1; W Jones (Wales) bt N Dyson (Eng) 5-1; C Small (Scot) bt D Wilson (Eng) 5-1; D McLellan (Scot) bt M Johnston-Allen (Eng) 5-2, S Lee (Eng) bt P Davies (Wales) 5-3, T Jones (Eng) bt G Horne (Scot) 5-2; J Johnson (Eng) bt W Randle (Eng) 5-0, M Bennett (Wales) bt J Wallace (Eng) 5-4, T Murphy (N Ire) bt J Bodle (Eng) 5-1, M Rowing (Eng) bt D Mountjoy (Wales) 5-1; F O'Brien (Ire) bt N Noppachorn (Thai) 5-1, M Hallett (Eng) bt D Leary (Eng) 5-3, P Horne (Eng) bt N Gilbert (Eng) 5-4, P Wykes (Eng) bt N Terry (Eng) 5-2, M Davis (Eng) bt M Geudens (Bel) 5-2; D Henry (Scot) bt W Brown (Eng) 5-1; D Finbow (Eng) bt C Edwards (Eng) 5-1; M King (Eng) bt P Delsemme (Bel) 5-3, M Campbell (Scot) bt A Higgins (N Ire) 5-1, J Prince (N Ire) bt S Ali (Pak) 5-1; N Pearce (Eng) bt L Dodd (Eng) 5-3, J Chambers (Eng) bt J Birch (Eng) 5-3, M Judge (Ire) bt P McPhillips (Scot) 5-3; G Ponting (Eng) bt M Flowerdew (Eng) 5-3; B Sneddon (Scot) bt M Couch (Eng) 5-4, B Pinches (Eng) bt S Murphy (Ire); R Lawler (Eng) bt C Shade (Scot) 5-3; S Rowswell (Eng) bt C Thorburn (Can) 5-4.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH: Dr Martens European League: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt S Hendry (Scot) 5-3, S Davis (Eng) bt J White (Eng) 5-2.

SQUASH

EDGBASTON PRIORY, Birmingham: QM National Championships: Quarter finals: D Harris (Essex) bt P Johnson (Kent) 9-8, 9-2, 9-2; M Chaloner (Lincs) bt P Lord (Cheshire) 9-0, 9-5, 9-6; P Nicol (Scot) bt N Taylor (Lancs) 9-1, 9-2, 9-0; S Meads (Berks) bt C Tomlinson (Kent) 8-0, 9-6, 9-5. Women: L Charman (Sussex) bt C (Norfolk) 7-8, 10-9, 10-8, 9-0; F Gaseye (Gloucs) bt J Martin (Northumbria) 9-1, 9-5, 9-4; S Wright (Kent) bt S Medle (Scot) 10-9, 9-8, 9-0; S Horner (Yorks) bt R Macree (Essex) 9-1, 9-1, 5-9, 9-2.

SWIMMING

WARRINGTON: Warriors short course meeting: Men: Freestyle: 200m: 1, M Hickey (Warrington) 1.53.29, 2, M How (Wigan) 1.54.20, 3, D Coombs (Romford) 1.54.72. Breaststroke: 200m: 1, J Tunstall (Liverpool) 2.22.36; 2, M Quinn (Bradford) 2.24.74, 3, J Wild (Bradford) 2.25.70. Backstroke: 200m: 1, A Aitken (Stockton) 2min 03.96sec; 2, J Griffin (Bradford) 2.06.36, 3, I Fairhurst (Warrington) 2.06.44. Butterfly: 50m: 1, D Coombs (Romford) 26.25, 2, K Crosby (Warrington) 27.20, 3, M Hickey (Warrington) 27.43. Butterfly: 200m: 1, K Crosby (Warrington) 2.07.35, 2, M Waldron (Warrington) 2.12.16; 3, J Roberts (Chester) 2.13.03. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, K Haworolt (Manchester) 26.30, 2, D Palmer (Killer Whales) 27.74, 3, A Capner (Chester) 27.85. 800m: 1, N Crosbie (Warrington) 9.01.76, 2, F Obinn (Bradford) 9.08.56, 3, H Goddard (Gloucs) 2.20.51. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, S Brownsdon (Coventry) 1.13.09; 2, D Palmer (Killerwhales) 1.13.49, 3, V Tomlinson (Liverpool) 1.18.23. Backstroke: 200m: 1, H Slatter (Warrington) 2.19.25, 2, R Lunt (Warrington) 2.23.23; 3, H Goddard (Gloucs) 2.25.91. Butterfly: 50m: 1, K Haworolt (Manchester) 29.23, 2, S Brownsdon (Coventry) 29.34, 3, M Hamson (Wyre) 30.20. Medley: 400m: 1, H Slatter (Warrington) 4.50.55, 2, N Crosbie (Warrington) 4:52.85, 3, D Palmer (Killer Whales) 4:58.09.

TABLE TENNIS

MANCHESTER: European Olympic qualifying tournament: Stage two: Men: M Syed (GB) bt T Janci (Slova) 26-24, 21-15, 17-21, 15-21, 21-16; Syed bt J Persson (Swe) 23-21, 12-21, 20-22, 21-15, 21-19; N Tsioka (Gre) bt M Syed (GB) 21-8, 21-15, 21-15 Women: L Lomas (GB) bt A Aresu (It) 21-19, 21-10, 21-7; E Timini (Rus) bt A Broe (GB) 21-13, 24-22, 21-18, M Hooman (Holl) bt A Holt (GB) 16-21, 21-11, 21-17, 21-13; A Holt (GB) bt R Paluchova (Cz) 21-14, 16-21, 13-21, 21-18, 21-18; L Lomas (GB) bt C Ozer (Bel) 25-13, 21-16, 17-21, 21-18, G Kean (Holl) bt A Broe (GB) 21-17, 18-21, 21-18, 21-11; T Bonas (Chil) bt L Lomas (GB) 21-11, 15-21, 21-11, 21-11.

TENNIS

WHITE CITY, Sydney: Peters International tournament: Singles: Men: Final: T Martin (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Women: Semi-finals: M Seles (US) bt B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) 7-6, 6-4, L Davenport (US) bt K Date (Jpn) 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

KOOYONG, Melbourne: Men's Colonial Classic exhibition tournament: Final: M Chang (US) bt Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 7-5, 6-1, Third place play-off: A Agassi (US) bt J Courier (US) 6-4 6-2.

TELFORD: LTA Reebok tour: Singles: Final: Men: N Weal (Surrey) bt T Spinks (Norfolk) 6-0, 6-1. Women: E Bond (Gloucs) bt I Wyatt (Oxon) 6-2, 6-3.

MELBOURNE: Australian Open qualifying tournament: Women: Singles: Final round: C Wood (GB) bt L McShea (Aus) 6-4 6-1

NAIROBI: Davis Cup Euro-African zone: Group three: Ireland bt Moldova 3-0 (Irish names first): S Barron bt E Plougarev 6-2, 6-3, O Casey bt O Sirik 7-5, 2-6, 6-3; Casey and E Collins bt M Savinski and Sirik 6-4, 6-2.

HOBART: Women's Tasmanian International tournament: Singles: Semi-finals: J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt S-T Wang (Thai) 6-2, 6-2; M Endo (Jpn) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Orrell	38	Saracens	13

Orrell: Tries: Mason, Smith 3. Cons: Mason 3. Pens: Mason 4. Saracens: Tries: Chesney, Hames. Pen: Tunningley.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	11	10	0	1	342	164	20
Leicester	11	9	0	2	253	139	18
Harlequins	11	7	0	4	262	205	14
Wasps	10	6	0	4	229	180	12
Sale	11	6	0	5	224	187	12
Orrell	12	6	0	6	216	266	12
Bristol	11	5	0	6	188	254	10
Saracens	12	4	0	8	190	330	8
Gloucester	11	2	0	9	162	254	4
W Hartlepool	10	0	0	10	156	243	0

LEADING SCORERS: 165: J Liley (Leicester 1 try, 11 conversions, 45 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 159: J Callard (Bath, 3t, 27c, 30pg) 133: S Mason (Orrell 3t, 11c, 32pg) 114: R Liley (Sale, 2t, 13c, 24pg, 2dg) 97: A Lee (Saracens 1t, 4c, 24pg, 4dg). 95: T *Simpson (West Hartlepool* 3t, 7c, 22pg). Tries: 7: G Smith (Orrell) 6: A Adebayo (Bath), J Gurscott (Bath), R Kitchin (Harlequins), A Lumsden (Bath), D O'Leary (Harlequins).

Second division

London Irish	21	London Scottish	20

London Irish. Pens: Corcoran 7. London Scottish: Tries: N Robinson 2, Thompson Con: Stent Pen: Stent.

Nottingham	24	Newcastle	24

Nottingham: Tries: Read, penalty try. Con: Hodgkinson. Pens: Hodgkinson 4. Newcastle: Tries: Arnold, Frankland. Con: Cramb. Pens: Cramb 4.

Wakefield	17	Blackheath	0

Wakefield: Tries: Petyt, Scully. Cons: Jackson 2. Dropped goal: Metcalfe.

Waterloo	48	Bedford	24

Waterloo: Tries: Bruce, Emmett, Kay, McCaughenan, Buckton 2. Cons, Emmett 3. Pens: Emmett 4. Bedford. Tries: Clough 2, Goldsmith, Stone. Cons: Finnie 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	11	11	0	0	561	129	22
London Irish	12	9	0	3	364	269	18
London Scot	12	8	2	2	346	196	18
Moseley	11	6	0	5	160	209	12
Blackheath	12	5	1	6	211	281	11
Wakefield	12	5	0	7	185	194	10
Waterloo	12	4	2	6	196	309	10
Bedford	12	4	1	7	230	351	9
Nottingham	12	2	1	9	177	286	5
Newcastle	12	1	1	10	185	310	3

LEADING SCORERS: 210: M Corcoran (London Irish, 2 tries, 25 conversions, 40 penalty goals). 132: P Grayson (Northampton 2t, 29c, 29pg). 103: S Howard (Bedford 1t, 3c, 26pg, 5 dropped goals). 99: M Jackson (Wakefield, 12c, 25pg). 94: M Emmett (Waterloo, 1t, 7c, 25pg). 89: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham 7c, 24pg, 1dg). 85: A Finnie (Bedford, 1t, 16c, 13pg, 2dg). 78: A Irvin (Moseley 5t, 4c, 13pg, 2dg). 74: J Steele (London Scottish, 2t, 15c, 12pg, 2dg). 70: M Allen (Northampton, 14t). Tries: 14: Allen. 12: G Seely (Northampton). 9: Townsend (Northampton). 8: Sorrellan 7: M Dods (Northampton), M Oliver (Bedford), C O'Shea (London Irish).

Third division

Coventry	38	Morley	23

Coventry: Tries, Hanson, Hart, Morgan 2, Shepherd 2. Cons: Hart 3, Quick. Morley: Tries, Fenyon, Massey. Cons, Grayshon 2. Pens: Grayshon 3.

Harrogate	17	Rosslyn Park	6

Harrogate: Try: Eastorby. Pens: Zoing 4. Rosslyn Park: Pen: Rowland. Dropped goal: Rowland.

Otley	19	Fylde	12

Otley: Try: Billington. Con: Rutledge. Pens: Rutledge 4. Fylde: Tries, Barclay, Seed. Con: Parker.

Richmond	9	Rotherham	16

Richmond: Pens: Gregory 3. Rotherham: Tries: Dudley Hough. Pens: Brailsford 2.

Rugby	37	Reading	19

Rugby: Tries: Glover, Jenkins, Palmer, Saunders. Cons: Quantrill 4. Pens: Quantrill 3. Reading: Tries: Belshaw, Fanning, Phillips. Cons: Belshaw 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	10	8	0	2	274	126	16
Coventry	10	8	0	2	209	138	16
Rugby	10	7	0	3	231	152	14
Otley	10	5	1	4	144	201	11
Rotherham	10	5	0	5	181	204	10
Morley	10	4	1	5	181	195	9
Harrogate	10	4	1	5	186	231	9
Rosslyn Park	10	3	1	6	159	190	7
Reading	10	3	0	7	213	248	6
Fylde	10	1	0	9	146	239	2

LEADING SCORERS: 141: R Zoing (Harrogate, 2 tries, 10 conversions, 35 penalty goals, 2 dropped goal). 124: J Gregory (Richmond, 3t, 18c, 26pg). 121: J Grayshon (Morley 1t, 10c, 29pg, 3dg) 118: J Quantrill (Rugby, 3t, 14c, 25pg) 84: C Quick (Coventry, 1t, 9c, 21pg) 81: P Rutledge (Otley, 1t, 2c, 24pg) 68: K Plant (Rotherham, 7c, 16pg, 2dg) 66: S Gough (Fylde, 1t, 5c, 17pg). Tries: 7: E Saunders (Rugby). 6: A Boyd (Richmond).

Fourth division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	10	9	0	1	240	119	18
London Welsh	10	8	0	2	268	123	16
Liverpool St H	10	7	1	2	269	148	15
Havant	10	5	1	4	165	195	11
Walsall	10	5	0	5	225	197	10
Redruth	10	4	1	5	212	224	9
Clifton	10	3	0	7	128	174

هكذا من الاصل

Budget concession under threat as deadline nears

Tax debate divides bookmakers

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

A SPLIT within the ranks of bookmakers has frustrated negotiations between the betting and racing industries, which are close to agreement over allocating £65 million in betting duty cuts set aside in the Budget.

The Treasury's deadline for *completion of negotiations* expires today but smaller bookmakers remain vehemently opposed to any payment to racing. The Chancellor announced in November that both industries should benefit from the 1 per cent reduction in betting duty. His intentions have since been reinforced by Treasury ministers, who have demonstrated that funds are available over and above a reduction in punters' betting tax from 10 to 9 per cent.

But while the "big three" betting concerns — Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral — have agreed in principle to increase levy contributions to racing, the owners of some 1,500 betting shops, under the aegis of the British Betting Office Association (BBOA), maintain they cannot afford to pay. Their stance threatens the £65 million rebate offered by the Chancellor, who indicated the package was dependent on the racing and betting industries reaching accord.

On the negotiating table is an offer from the "big three" to pay an additional levy of 0.15 per cent on horserace betting turnover. That would generate an extra £4.5 million, although the British Horseracing Board (BHB) is believed to have argued for at least double that sum. One suggested avenue towards a settlement is for betting shops with high turnover to bear an increased burden.

Ironically, the Treasury's insistence on prompt settlements of the Levy Scheme, which governs bookmakers' annual contributions to the sport, has hampered efforts to break the impasse. The 1996-97 scheme has already been cast in stone. Agreement on additional bookmakers' contributions would have to be voluntary until they can be enshrined in the scheme commencing in April 1997.

Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the BHB, said yesterday that negotiations would go right down to the wire. "I'm certainly hopeful we can meet the deadline. The complexities involved are quite considerable but we have gone far enough down the road to make agreement possible," he said.

The closeness of the call typifies all financial negotiations between two sides bound by an urgent need for accord. Today's deadline is not absolute; it was set by Treasury officials to coincide with the second reading of the Finance Bill in the House of Commons.

But failure to reach a consensus runs the risk of alienating a government that has proved receptive to the negative impact on betting turnover of the National Lottery and scratch cards. Some £3 million has been cut from racing's budget for 1996. The two sides will incur the wrath of all with a stake in the sport unless the Chancellor's tax cut starts filtering through to racing's coffers on March 1.

The Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot on Saturday fell to the late surge of Big Matt, who collared Martin's Lamp after the final fence to break a frustrating sequence for his trainer, Nicky Henderson. "Everything was going well before the freeze but we've had our share of second places since then," Henderson said. "You need the breaks to win the big races and it wasn't us who made the [jumping] mistakes this time."

Big Matt, who was off the bridle from flagfall on Saturday, found the two-mile trip on the short side. "His optimum distance is around 2½ miles," the trainer said. "but I'll enter him for the Racing Post Chase over three miles and make a decision nearer the time."

☐ Peter Easterby became the first modern-day trainer to saddle 1,000 winners under both codes when Dally Boy justified favouritism in the Teal Juvenile Novices' Hurdle at Newcastle on Saturday.

ED BYRNE



Martin's Lamp leads the winner, Big Matt, over the last in the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FRONTAGER
(1.25 Sedgefield)
Next best: Rumi
(12.55 Sedgefield)

Irish gather team for Cheltenham

FROM RICHARD EVANS AT LEOPARDSTOWN

THE Irish countdown to Cheltenham is under way in earnest after a host of Festival pointers were provided here on Saturday in an enthralling day's racing.

Dance Beat, the fairytale winner of The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle, is the starting point for what could be another bumper Irish haul at Cheltenham in March, to match that of the past couple of years.

A half-sister to Galmoy, who won a brace of Stayers' Hurdles at Cheltenham, she was bought for just 1,300 guineas as a yearling by Johnny Harrington, and is trained by his wife, Jessica. Dance Beat's gutsy victory, under a fine ride from Anthony Powell, has earned her a crack at the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, although readers of the Irish form book were quick to point out how her Ladbroke success underlined the chances of Thats My Man, trained by Aidan O'Brien.

At Fairyhouse last month, the O'Brien novice gave 12lb and a 21-length thrashing to Dance Beat, and is already being talked of in terms of "banker" Festival material. The quality and strength in depth of the novice hurdlers in Ireland was further underlined in the opening Fitzpatricks Castle Hurdle — which was run in a time a second faster than The Ladbroke.

Urubande, ridden by Charlie Swan and giving 4lb to Akhiyar, set out to make all but was caught within the shadow of the post, with the third 20 lengths away. Urubande, also trained by O'Brien, looks sure to be suited by the stiffer test of stamina posed by the Sun Alliance Hurdle, while the winner, once an Irish Derby hopeful, is more likely to stick to two miles and be aimed at the Supreme Novices'.

Imperial Call did particularly well to win the McCain Handicap Chase over two miles as his principal target is the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown and, possibly, the Cheltenham Gold Cup. However, the horse that caught the eye was Strong Platinum, who was giving 12lb to the winner and racing on unfavourable heavy ground. Travelling strongly throughout and jumping magnificently, he was only 1½ lengths adrift at the line without having been given an unduly hard time.

On good going the eight-year-old will be seen to even better effect, and given suitable ground conditions it is difficult seeing British two-mile chasers thwarting the dual challenge posed by Sound Man and Strong Platinum in the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Treble Bob is any owner's dream. The winner of six Flat races on the bounce, his only defeat over hurdles came at Cheltenham last March when he was third in the Sun Alliance Hurdle. On his first attempt over fences in the Fitzpatricks Hotel Group Novices' Chase, he had too much finishing speed for Minella Lad. Dermot Weld is now leaning towards the Sun Alliance Chase as opposed to the Stayers' Hurdle for him.

Ladbroke result

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Dance Beat (A Powell, 12-11); 2, Family Way (6-1 jf-tav); 3, Derrymoyle (6-1 jf-tav); 4, Squire Silk (20-1); 22 ran. NR: Crosslamogue 11, 1½l Mrs J Harrington (Ire). Tote: £9.80; £2.40, £2.10, £1.60; £8.40. DF: £26.40. CSF: £79.06. Tricast: £450.48.

Roberts lifted by What A Hand

POINT-TO-POINT
BY CARL EVANS

PODGE ROBERTS is furious. If What A Hand runs in Cheltenham's Foxhunters' Chase she will have to leave her zimmer frame at home and travel by wheelchair. "It's something to do with insurance at racecourses," said the 83-year-old, clutching her precious frame with one hand and the wooden rail that is Larkhill's winner's enclosure with the other.

The Army meeting, the season's first, was dominated by the Dorset trainer, Richard Barber, who had four winners, but Mrs Roberts pocketed his thunder after What A Hand took the Land Rover Qualifier. Frail in body but mighty of vocal chords, Mrs Roberts said: "I'm only living for him. I love horses and this is the best I have owned."

While What A Hand was enhancing a life, other horses were doing the opposite. Pip Jones took a sickening fall when Gunner Boon shot her into a fence's plastic wing supported by a wooden stake, around which Jones's back was bent. She recovered well enough to take herself for X-rays in Cardiff yesterday.

Polly Curling also suffered as Two Johns dived out, but collected a double on Strong Tarquin and Flaked Oats, both for Barber.

Harry Dunlop, on horses owned by his father, champion Flat trainer, John, took a third and fourth on Colonel O'Kelly and Local Manor at Tweseldown yesterday.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS: ARMY (Larkhill) Army race: 1, Desert Waltz (O Elwood); Mdn (Div I): 1 African Bride (P Jones); Mdn (Div II, pt I): 1, Strong Tarquin (P Curling); Mdn (Div II, pt II): 1, True Fortune (J Lodge); Ladies: 1, Flaked Oats (P Curling); Men's: 1, What A Hand (T Mitchell); Confined: Granville Guest (D Pipe)

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

1.15 Perhaps
1.45 CAVINA (nap)
2.15 Pond House
2.45 Jurassic Classic
3.15 Supreme Lady
3.45 Superior Risk
4.15 Fresh Choice

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.15 LYING EYES.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.45 CAVINA (nap).

GUIDE TO COURSE CARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,6,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — stopped up, R — refused, O — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F N flat, B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race. Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider, plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.15 DOCKER HUGHES MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,678: 2m 6l) (11 runners)

1	53-321	PERHAPS 33 (G) (H Winston) Miss H Knight 5-11-7	G F Ryan (5)	(6)
2	0	BRIGHT NOVEMBER 38 (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 5-11-6	S Curran (3)	–
3	40/0F-F	COOLEGALE 34 (Mrs C Zetter-Wells) L Wells 10-11-6	G Hogan (3)	–
4	0	FIRST CLASS 39 (G Alford) G Alford 6-11-6	J Kavanagh	55
5	3135-0	JULTARA 35 (S) (R Barby) J Edwards 7-11-6	A P McCoy	71
6		KENDAL CAVALIER (M Wingfield Digby) G Balding 5-11-6	B Fenton (5)	–
7	PPPSR/P	MR ZIEGFELD 48 (A Hardman) Miss L Bower 7-11-6	L Harvey	–
8	0F	POUNDING SURF 44 (B Edgeley) J Mullins 7-11-6	R Greene	–
9	/562/F-0	RING CORBITTS 72 (M Roberts) M Roberts 8-11-6	C Llewellyn	–
10	03PD-PD	BAYBELLINA 14 (J Bagley) R Buckler 5-11-1	B Powell	56
11	PP-5	MINSTURE MELODY 26 (P Ritchens) P Ritchens 8-11-1	A Tory	56

BETTING: 4-9 Perhaps, 5-1 Jultara, 6-1 First Class, 12-1 Kendal Cavalier, 16-1 Minsture Melody, 25-1 others

1995: KAMIKAZE 5-11-12 J Railton (7-4) J Whitz 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

PERHAPS beat General Tonic 5l in 16-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). BRIGHT NOVEMBER 84l 12th of 13 to Zepinzmus in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). FIRST CLASS 35l 9th of 14 to Lady Eddie in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). JULTARA 29l 7th of 15 to Seasonal Splendour in maiden hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft). POUNDING SURF mid-division and under pressure when fell 4 out in 15-runner novice hurdle won by Buckhouse Boy at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft). BAYBELLINA over 35l 9th of 18 to Cross's Delight in selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft). Selection: PERHAPS

1.45 DOCKER HUGHES MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,656: 2m 6l) (10 runners)

1	1/122	CAVINA 44 (D,F,S) (P Jacobs) N Graham 6-11-7	R Dunwoody	(6)
2	6-3P364	DESERT PRESIDENT 12 (P Mooney) R Head 5-11-6	S Curran (3)	64
3	230-P	DINNER AT EIGHT 9 (M Bevan) R O'Sullivan 6-11-6	A Procter (3)	62
4		GREAT STUFF (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-11-6	G Bradley	–
5	0-50	KEY PLAYER 25 (W Packham) A Rowe 7-11-6	D O'Sullivan	–
6	50	MASKED MARTIN 42 (B) (E Way) P Rodford 5-11-6	S Burrough	–
7	3P000-	TIGER BLUE 242 (Mrs H Goody) M Madgwick 5-11-6	B Fenton (5)	–
8	32/52/P	WELSH COTTAGE 9 (Parallel Tapes & Connexions Ltd) J Gifford 9-11-6	P Hide	–
9	5	HONEY BUN 30 (B) (Stonehouse Racing) M Pipe 5-11-1	D Bridgwater	93
10	0020-46	MISS DISKIN 25 (Ni Forrester) R Buckler 7-11-1	B Powell	84

BETTING: 2-1 Honey Bun, 3-1 Cavina, 5-1 Great Stuff, 6-1 Miss Diskin, 8-1 Welsh Cottage, 10-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

CAVINA 6l 2nd of 18 to Chopwell Curtains in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f 110yd, good). DESERT PRESIDENT 21l 4th to Valiant Tonic in selling hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). DINNER AT EIGHT best recent effort 14l 3rd of 11 to Desmond Gold in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6l 110yd, good) November 1994. WELSH COTTAGE 10l 2nd of 10 to Sound Caster in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, firm) on penultimate start, November 1993. HONEY BUN 24l 5th of 16 to Serious in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). MISS DISKIN 21½l 6th to Premiss Girl in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). Selection: CAVINA

2.15 PETER DUNCANSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY MAIDEN CHASE (£3,260: 2m 3f) (10 runners)

1	20	GRAPHIC DESIGNER 34 (GPS (Print) Ltd) G Harwood 7-11-4	M Perrett	–
2	00-3	HAG'S WAY 73 (Mrs A O'Sullivan) J Edwards 6-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	–
3	0	LANCE ARMSTRONG 30 (S Porter) Mrs M McCourt 6-11-4	S Curran (3)	–
4	U6/F3-32	POLICEMANS PRIDE 25 (R Dove) M Madgwick 7-11-4	B Fenton (5)	(6)
5	00/FP5-3	POND HOUSE 46 (C Reed) M Pipe 7-11-4	D Bridgwater	–
6		RUSSIAN BART (The Russian Bart Partnership) R Rowe 6-11-4	D O'Sullivan	–
7	00	SOLAR WARRIOR 41 (The Wasted Thinkers) J Fitch-Heyes 6-11-4	J R Kavanagh	–
8	0F-RF4	SUGAR HILL 41 (Mrs T Pilkington) J Gifford 6-11-4	P Hide	97
9	6-5225P	EMRAL MISS 39 (B) (Mrs J Bonnett) C Popham 8-10-13	T Dascombe (5)	97
10	P/P	TARGO COUNTRY 58 (P Jones) P Jones 7-10-13	Mr L Baker (7)	–

BETTING: 7-4 Pond House, 7-2 Sugar Hill, 6-1 Graphic Designer, 7-1 Policemans Pride, 8-1 others.

1995: RAINBOW CASTLE 8-11-4 P Hide (3-1) J Gifford 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

GRAPHIC DESIGNER 10l 2nd to Foxbow in novice hurdle at Ascot (3m, good) on penultimate start. HAG'S WAY 16l 3rd to Apachee Flower in maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good). LANCE ARMSTRONG 24l 8th to Simply Dashing in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). POLICEMANS PRIDE 9l 2nd to Aetosm in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m, heavy). POND HOUSE distant 3rd to Alfrink in maiden chase at Lecanby (3m, good to firm). SUGAR HILL 27l 4th to Master Orchestra in maiden chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft). EMRAL MISS best recent effort 6l 2nd to Gospel in novice chase at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). Selection: SUGAR HILL

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FONTWELL PARK SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Egerton, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%; G Harwood, 12 from 68, 32.4%; M Pipe, 22 from 88, 32.4%; Mrs J Pitman, 5 from 18, 27.8%; Mrs L Richards, 5 from 19, 26.3%; J Gifford, 27 from 127, 21.3%; R O'Sullivan, 10 from 47, 21.3%.

JOCKEYS: D Bridgwater, 9 winners from 34 rides, 26.5%; P Hide, 15 from 66, 22.7%; M Perrett, 16 from 75, 21.3%; G Bradley, 4 from 19, 21.1%; A P McCoy, 9 from 44, 20.5%; A Procter, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

2.45 PANMURE GORDON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,386: 3m 2f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	02/1203-	KALANSKI 374 (G,S) (I Kennan) C Egerton 10-12-0	J A McCarthy	86
2	1/1D4-4P	MR MATT 12 (CD,F,S) (Mrs E Boustred) D Gressell 8-11-8	D Bridgwater	84
3	3352-P5	DIAMOND FORT 33 (D,F,S,S) (Mrs R Stocks) J McConnochie 11-10-11	S McNeill	90
4	134-11F	MAZZARD 9 (B,D,BF,S) (A Morrish) W G M Turner 7-10-11	R Dunwoody	(6) 90
5	F11U2-4	JURASSIC CLASSIC 44 (CD,S) (B Seal & R Rees) Mrs L Richards 9-10-8	M Richards	87
6	40-P405	AMIND CHILONE 34 (D,C,S) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 10-10-4	L Aspell (5)	89
7	F-0F552	SCOTONI 39 (C,F,6,S) (D & D Robinson) R O'Sullivan 10-10-1	B Powell	90
8	120/4P3	ANDROS PRINCE 47 (G,S) (A Zaffopoulo) Miss A Embiricos 11-10-0	J Ryan	91
9	34U-41F	ITS A SNIP 54 (B,D,6,S) (Icy Fire Partnership) C Mann 11-10-0	J R Kavanagh	86
10	0P0/04-3	THE GOLFING CURATE 34 (S) (C Poore) R Rowe 11-10-0	D O'Sullivan	85
11	51/0-005	MASTER COMEDY 64 (B,CD,F,S) (Miss J Williamson) Miss L Bower 12-10-0	D Gallagher	64

Long handicap: Its A Snip 9-12, The Golfing Curate 9-11, Master Comedy 8-11

BETTING: 7-2 Jurassic Classic, 5-1 Annie Chilone, Mazzard, 6-1 Scotoni, 7-1 Mr Matt, 8-1 Kalanski, Andros Prince, 12-1 others

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

KALANSKI 20½l 3rd of 6 to Percy Smollett in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, heavy). MR MATT 10½l 4th of 7 to Dextra Dove in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) on penultimate start. MAZZARD completed double, beat Sunley Boy 8l in 12-runner handicap chase at Bangor (4m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start with DIAMOND FORT (12lb better off) distant 5th. JURASSIC CLASSIC 12l 2nd of 10 to A N C Express in novices' handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, heavy) on penultimate start, March 1995. SCOTONI 3l 2nd of 11 to Certain Angle in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). ANDROS PRINCE 6¼l 3rd of 11 to Two Slates in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). ITS A SNIP beat Vinny 14kl in the 16-runner Vodka Pandolone Chase at Pardubice (4m 2f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. THE GOLFING CURATE 10l 3rd of 12 to No Pain No Gain in novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good). Selection: KALANSKI

3.15 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,340: 2m 2f) (16 runners)

1	0-10	MERILENA 11 (F) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-5	K Gaule (3)	93
2	10	REUKOWEN 49 (BF,S) (Mrs M Barton) A Turnell 6-11-5	S McNeill	92
3	2-231	SUPREME LADY 40 (S) (Supreme Lady Partnership) Miss H Knight 5-11-5	J F Titley	85
4	0206-U5	BODFARI PRODUCER 9 (Tilstone Lodge Stud) J Edwards 6-10-12	A P McCoy	95
5	00	BONITA BLAKENEY 40 (J Hinchliffe & L Shack) G Balding 6-10-12	B Clifford	–
6	22-	GLENGARRIF GIRL 289 (V) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 5-10-12	D Bridgwater	–
7		LORETTAS TREASURE (Mrs R Georgacharni) R O'Sullivan 6-10-12	D O'Sullivan	–
8		MAY MISSILE (T Smith) M Madgwick 5-10-12	B Fenton (5)	–
9	42-406	MISS BRECKNELL 9 (A Kaplan & R Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12	W Marston	89
10	04	OATIS ROSE 44 (A Pigg) M Sheppard 5-10-12	B Powell	86
11	4	ROWAN HEIGHTS 56 (Sir Christopher Wates) J Gifford 5-10-12	P Hide	–
12	0-0	RUBY'S GIRL 40 (B Higbens) A Turnell 6-10-12	G Crone (7)	–
13	12	SUPREME KELLYCARRA 56 (F) (Littlejohn Tyres Ltd) J Gifford 5-10-12	L Aspell (5)	–
14	D	THE MERRY NUN 41 (Greycing Club) Mrs M McCourt 7-10-12	G Bradley	–
15	0	THE SMILING GIRL 25 (P Jones) P Jones 6-10-12	D Leahy	–
16	000/002-	WIN A HAND 241 (B Ryall) B Ryall 6-10-12	A Maguire	75

BETTING: 9-4 Supreme Lady, 7-2 Supreme Kellycarra, 6-1 Glengarrif Girl, 8-1 Miss Brecknell, 10-1 Bodfari Producer, 12-1 Rukowen, 14-1 others.

1995: KEEL ROW 5-10-12 M A Fitzgerald (3-1 jf-tav) T Thomson Jones 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

MERILENA beat Rent Day 25l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. REUKOWEN beat Rushaway 9l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) on penultimate start. SUPREME LADY best Silver Shred 4l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft) with BONITA BLAKENEY (7lb better off) 8l 14th and RUBY'S GIRL (7lb better off) 17l 16th. BODFARI PRODUCER about 7½l 6th of 14 to Silver Shred in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to soft) with MISS BRECKNELL 6l 5th. GLENGARRIF GIRL 21½l 2nd of 16 to Dukes Meadow in National Hunt Flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). OATIS ROSE 36l 4th of 14 to Potentate in maiden hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). SUPREME KELLYCARRA 71 2nd of 6 to Henrietta Howard in National Hunt Flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm) with ROWAN HEIGHTS (7lb worse off) 17l 4th. Selection: SUPREME LADY (nap)

3.45 HOUGHTON NOVICES CHASE (£4,128: 3m 2f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	0/1-2P3U	SILVERFORT LAD 9 (B,G) (A Wates) T Casey 7-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	(6)
2	P54-PPU	ALRION 25 (A Chadwick) C Weedon 7-11-3	G Upton	–
3	00-SF	DUSKY ROVER 72 (B) (Dr G Scott) Miss H Knight 7-11-3	J F Titley	85
4	6403-F	RIVERS END 11 (Mrs D Goalpost) J Edwards 7-11-3	A P McCoy	–
5	1-2	SUPERIOR RISK 35 (BF,6) (D Maxted) M Pipe 7-11-3	D Bridgwater	93
6	1543	TEATRADER 12 (F,6,S,S) (E Seal) Mrs L Richards 10-11-3	M Richards	69
7	P	THEFOURTHMUSKATEER 35 (D & J Newell) S Earle 7-11-3	C Maude	–
8		QUOTE (Mrs T Sims) G Balding 9-10-12	B Fenton	–
9	32-P	UPTON LASS 54 (L Kimbert C Nash 7-10-12	L Harvey	–

BETTING: 1-2 Superior Risk, 4-1 Silverfort Lad, 8-1 Teatrader, 10-1 Rivers End, 14-1 Upton Lass, 16-1 others

1995: NICK THE DREAMER 10-11-9 R Dunwoody (7-2) W M Turner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

SILVERFORT LAD 11½l 3rd of 8 to St Mellion Fairway in novice chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy) on penultimate start with ALRION weakening when unseated rider 10th. RIVERS END left 6th in novice chase won by Fellow Countryman at Nottingham (3m 110yd, good). Previously 11l 3rd of 15 to Pomone in maiden hurdle at Perth (2m 4f 110yd, good). SUPERIOR RISK ½l 2nd of 13 to Court Melody in novice chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, soft). THEFOURTHMUSKATEER tailed off when pulled up before 15th. TEATRADER 6¼l 3rd to St Mellion Fairway in novice chase at Lingfield (3m, soft). DUSKY ROVER 3rd when fell 2 out. UPTON LASS 4l 2nd to Ita's Fellow in maiden open at Douglas (good to firm) on penultimate start. Selection: SUPERIOR RISK

4.15 SHOPWYKE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,236: 2m 6l) (17 runners)

1	45530-F	SMUGGLER'S POINT 14 (F) (M Hickey) R O'Sullivan 6-11-12	B Powell	83
2	P-31602	JADIDH 25 (D,F,6,S) (D Hazzard) C Wildman 8-11-9	D Salter (5)	82
3	4P-4540	NORTHERN VILLAGE 9 (CD,F,S) (Mrs H Chaloner) S Dow 9-11-7	R Dunwoody	84
4	0/511-F0	DESMOND GOLD 9 (B,D,6,S) (J Scanlon & J Turner) Mrs D Haine 8-11-7	J F Titley	61
5	25-3212	TIME FOR A FLUTTER 35 (BF,6,S) (Miss N Carroll) C James 7-11-7	Mr E James	87
6	24-4	SNOWY LANE 54 (G,S) (J Neville) J Neville 8-11-6	W Marston	80
7	113/0-	THERMAL WARRIOR 327 (S) (The Kentish Men) J Old 8-11-6	T Grantham	–
8	5441/4Y	SEA PATROL 737 (B,F) (A Whyte) M Pipe 9-11-1	D Bridgwater	–
9	FP3FP-P	LE GINNO 54 (C,S) (Irish World Partnership) C Brooks 9-11-0	G Bradley	–
10	23-6P31	LYING EYES 4 (S) (A Holdsworth) W G M Turner 5-11-0	J Power (7)	(6)
11	1022-06	STRAIGHT LACED 39 (B,6,S) (Mrs E Ludlow) P Clarke 9-10-10	B Fenton (5)	82
12	R6404-0	CARPAK 69 (V,D,6,S) (Mrs V Maunder) R Hodd 11-10-3	S Curran (3)	86
13	0F-3154	PETTAUGH 34 (D,F) (S Hubbard) S Hubbard 8-10-3	K Gaule (3)	80
14	5330	FRESH CHOICE 9 (I Kennan) R Rowe 6-10-2	D O'Sullivan	80
15	04P0P-U	MORE OF IT 61-4 (C,S) (M Roberts) M Roberts 11-10-1	A Maguire	–
16	2/P03-P0	SCENT OF BATTLE 12 (S) (W Carpenter) M Haynes 8-10-0	D Skyrme	77
17	3/34821-	DO BE WARE 441 (S) (J Fitch-Heyes) J Fitch-Heyes 6-10-0	J R Kavanagh	70

Long handicap: Scent Of Battle 9-12, Do Be Ware 9-3

BETTING: 9-2 Time For A Flutter, 11-2 Jadidh, 6-1 Lying Eyes, 8-1 Snowy Lane, 10-1 Sea Patrol, 12-1 Smuggler's Point, Pettaugh, 14-1 others.

1995: RAAHIN 10-10-0 S McNeill (4-1) S Woodman 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

JADIDH 4l 2nd of 10 to Premiss Girl in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). DESMOND GOLD best effort last season, beat Pistol River 1l in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft). TIME FOR A FLUTTER 6l 2nd of 15 to Monlagarot in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft) with LYING EYES (4lb better off) 25l 3rd. SNOWY LANE 20l 4th of 18 to Karat in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, soft) with JADIDH (6lb better off) 26½l 6th, LYING EYES (4lb better off) no chance when pulled up before 2 out and LE GINNO (6lb better off) tailed off when pulled up before 4 out. SEA PATROL 10½l 4th of 7 to Bollin Magdalena in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft), January 1994. LYING EYES beat Lincajun Cay 13l in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). PETTAUGH best effort last season, beat Dunlir 71 in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6l 110yd, good to firm) with ROWAN HEIGHTS (7lb worse off) 17l 4th. Selection: SUPREME LADY (nap)

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Fontwell Park: 1.45 Honey Bun, Masked Martin. 2.15 Emral Miss. 3.45 Dusky Rover. 4.15 Desmond Gold, Southwell: 1.05 Macaroon Lady, Chalky Dancer. 1.35 Skedaddle. 4.05 Colosse.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good to soft

1.00 (2m 5f hdle): 1, Wisley Wonder (C Llewellyn, 9-1); 2, Ebullient Equiname (9-1); 3, Seasonal Spielmoor (4-1 jf-tav) Buttercup Joe 4-1 jf-tav, 20 ran. 2l, 5l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £8.00; £2.80, £3.50, £2.00. DF: £43.90. Trio: £29.60. CSF: £83.38.

1.35 (2m 3f 110yd ch): 1, Uncle Eli (A P McCoy, 20-1); 2, The Frog Prince (100-30); 3, Repeat The Dose (8-1). Easy Buck 5-2 fav. 8 ran. Hd, 15l. R Alner. Tote: £24.00; £4.20, £1.30, £2.20. DF: £47.00. CSF: £76.07. Tricast: £491.49.

2.10 (2m ch): 1, Big Matt (M A Fitzgerald, 8-1); 2, Martin's Lamp (4-1); 3, Dancing Paddy (14-1). Front Street 7-2 fav (pu) 11 ran. 1½l, 11l. N Henderson. Tote: £9.00; £2.30, £2.00, £3.00. DF: £22.00. Trio: £75.00. CSF: £38.15. Tricast: £403.84.

2.45 (2m 110yd hdle): 1, Ashwell Boy (G McCourt, 11-1); 2, Mack The Knife (10-11 fav); 3, Rolle (25-1) 17 ran. NR: Decide Yourself. ¾l, 5l. P Hobbs. Tote: £14.60; £2.80, £1.30, £2.90. DF: £15.40. Trio: £64.90. CSF: £21.78.

3.15 (3m 110yd ch): 1, Hill Of Tullow (A Maguire, 8-4 fav); 2, Go Ballistic (10-1); 3, Harwell Lad (5-1). 9 ran. 1, 15l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £2.00, £1.90. DF: £12.80. Trio: £40.30. CSF: £23.13.

3.45 (2m 110yd hdle): 1, Sohrab (C Maude, 15-2); 2, Kingsfold Pet (13-2); 3, Romancer (8-1). Cheryl's Lad 2-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Statajack. 1¼l, 1¾l. M Pipe. Tote: £8.90; £2.50, £2.50, £2.50. DF: £41.90. Trio: £116.60. CSF: £55.54. Tricast: £379.07.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £114,365.15 carried forward to Southwell today).

Placepot: £49.80. Quadpot: £35.30.

Warwick

12.25 1, Manolete (8-11, 2, Bassenthally (16-1); 3, Bayamyca (12-1). 4, Thrower (10-1). General Tonic 5-1 fav. 16 ran.

12.55 1, Sparkling Yasmin (11-4) 2, The Reverend Bert (14-1) 3, Foxtot Romeo (16-1). Trail Boss 15-8 fav. 25 ran.

1.30 1, Misbinguest (8-2 fav); 2, Shepherds Rest (50-1); 3, Shah Again (10-1). 17 ran. NR: Hush Cross.

2.00 1, Denver Bay (13-2 jf-fav), 2, Philip's Woody (13-2 jf-fav); 3, All For Luck (12-1). 4, Lake Masson (14-1). 16 ran.

2.35 1, Jibber The Kibber (9-2); 2, Ar Shot (5-1); 3, Chief Roger (16-1). Sample Anthemenic. 7-2 fav. 16 ran.

3.05 1, Full Of Oats (11-2), 2, Maamur (6-4 fav); 3, Gold Cap (25-1). 12 ran.

3.40 1, Pharanear (9-2), 2, Angelo's Double (20-1), 3, Bell Steffboy (14-1). 4, Fuzzy Logic (15-2). Encore Un Peu 3-1 fav. 18 ran.

Newcastle

12.40 1, Highbank (11-10 fav), 2, Celtic Ceilidh (20-1), 3, Dart Sound (10-1). 16 ran.

1.10 1, Dally Boy (Evens fav), 2, Final Fling (25-1), 3, Beau Matelot (20-1). 25 ran.

1.45 1, Silver Stick (7-2), 2, Paddy Morrissey (50-1); 3, The Bod Club (2-1 fav). 7 ran.

2.20 1, The Last Fling (9-1), 2, Zamhereer (20-1), 3, Pride Of May (12-1). Rye Crossing 3-1 fav. 14 ran.

2.55 1, Avro Anson (9-2); 2, Lord Gyllene (16-1), 3, Cumbrian Challenge (2-1). Addington Boy Evens fav (un). 6 ran.

3.25 1, Admirals Seat (10-1); 2, Current Speech (14-1), 3, Jemima Puddleduck (14-1). 4, Whaddidyousay (14-1). Floating Line 7-2 fav. 18 ran.

3.55 1, Trainglot (33-1), 2, Native Field (13-2); 3, Outset (16-1). 4, Cuthroat Kid (9-4 fav). 17 ran.

Lingfield Park

12.50 1, Last But Not Least (6-4 fav); 2, Miss Pickpocket (11-4), 3, Bouton D'Or (7-1). 5 ran.

1.25 1, Mirosvaald (5-6 fav); 2, Kymin (5-1); 3, Royal Legend (14-1). 17 ran. NR: Elamant.

1.55 1, No Speeches (11-2

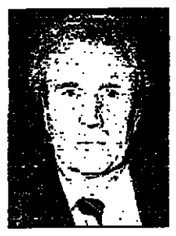
ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

In Oxford, sculptor Richard Wentworth is given the run of the Christ Church Picture Gallery

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



MUSIC

Sir Colin Davis launches his LSO Bruckner and Mozart series at the Barbican

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

Michael Tippett's masterly *A Midsummer Marriage* receives a new production at Covent Garden

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

Wilde at heart: Martin Shaw stars in *An Ideal Husband* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

THEATRE: Stagings for John Betjeman and Jean Rhys

Bard of the Bath teashop

Betjemania
King's Head

BOTH the title and the misspelling on the front page of the King's Head programme are calculated to arouse your curiosity. "*Betjemania*," we read, "a musical revue based on the writings of Sir John Betjemen."

Is it possible that the poet we always called John Betjeman had more than a single personality, and that one of these Betjemens knew how to rave and rage? Was there a Betjemaniac with an eye that, in fine frenzy rolling, glanced from heaven to earth and earth to heaven, like the wild bard Theseus evoked in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

Not on the evidence of the amiable, harmless four-person show David Benedictus has stitched together from Betjeman's verse and, occasionally, prose. It would make as much sense to call a reading of George Herbert's religious poetry Herbohysterics. What excitement can be extracted from gymkhanas, Victorian pubs and churches, firelight shining on green linoleum, thatched cottages, WIs and Tunbridge Wells *Central Station*, is duly extracted here. It does not exactly raise the roof or, mostly, the audience's spirits.

Mark you, Betjeman's mildly satiric wit is well enough suited to what used to be called intimate revue. His simple, regular rhythms and rhymes beg to be put to music, and have been brightly enough set by John Gould.

Some numbers — *Varsity Students Rag* or the parody hymn "we spray the fields and scatter the poison on the land" — come with tunes more or less in place already. They tend also to make fun of anything even slightly nouveau or vulgar: which is very much the spirit of revue as it rather snobbishly was 40 or 50 years ago.

There have been times — half-microwaved on an airless train, for instance, while all *around baby-faced tycoons* bark into mobile phones — when I too have shared Betjeman's nostalgic patriotism. Who hasn't? But all that wincing at cars and PROs and "come friendly bombs, and fall on Slough") suburban city centres had the paradoxical effect of half-reconciling me to the modern world. Is being cosily stuck in the 1940s with one's teddy and one's memories of matron at prep school really so much more enticing than driving fast down the M1 to a G&T in a fake-Georgian roadhouse?

Towards the end, when homosexuality and then death come into the poetic equation, we get a glimpse of a harsher, deeper Betjeman; but Mary Lincoln, Caroline Fitzgerald, Simon Butteriss and Nicholas Caunter do not make him resonate very loudly. Richard Syms's cast has clearly been *chosen for its pleasing* warmth, deft charm and other such lower-case virtues — and why not? That is what the bard of the Bath teashop, the vilifier of peroxide hair and speedboats called Mandy Jane, would seem to require. That is what he deserves.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Cosy cast: Simon Butteriss and Mary Lincoln

Rhymes with reason

Tonight's T.S. Eliot Prize may bring just reward to a pioneering poetry publisher. Dalya Alberge reports

In 1978, NatWest refused to lend a meagre £60 to a postgraduate student *with a dream of starting* up a poetry publishing company called Bloodaxe. The bank manager said something about it being too speculative a venture.

Undeterred, the student found the money elsewhere. He also changed bank. In the 1990s, Bloodaxe has a turnover of £500,000 and publishes at an extraordinary pace: one book each week.

Two volumes from the house that Neil Astley built are up for the T.S. Eliot Prize, announced tonight. Since the award's founding in 1994 — on the fortieth anniversary of the Poetry Book Society, which Eliot was involved in founding — it has already established itself as a major event in the poetry calendar. For prizes, as the publishing world knows, raise the profile of poetry: they improve sales no end.

Poetry needs all the support *it can get at a time when* leading publishing houses are slimming down or abandoning poetry lists. Sinclair-Stevenson, for example, published its final collection last November.

Sandy Grant, Sinclair-Stevenson's chief executive, describes himself as a poetry lover — "some of my best friends are poets," he jokes — and explains that most were selling under 500 copies, and that they would not contemplate fiction that was going to sell fewer than 3,000. The company felt that its expertise and contacts lay elsewhere in the high culture area.

Chatto & Windus has dispensed with a formal list, and intends to publish the occasional collection that impresses its editors. Jonathan Burnham, Chatto's publishing director, notes that sales of poetry have dwindled over the past five years.

Yet, he adds, the conundrum is that there are more good poets now than there have been for many years, and, to judge by the success of National Poetry Day or of Poems on the Underground, a market for poetry must clearly exist.

Indeed, the Arts Council felt the picture was so confusing it has commissioned a survey of the public's attitude towards poetry. Alistair Niven, its head of literature, says that the state of poetry needed clarifying: stories abounded of falling sales as *publishers, libraries* and even teachers lost interest, while at the same time thousands were jamming the BBC switchboard last October to vote for their favourite poem. *The survey, he says, reflects* the nation's deep-rooted interest in poetry.

While Faber, Penguin and Oxford University Press maintain their commitment to poetry, Astley sees the demise of poetry within other leading houses as Bloodaxe's gain. *The more the big boys axe* their lists, the more Bloodaxe sells.

Astley's own survey showed that readers come from across the board because his company's poetry has such a range: from the political work of Osip Mandelstam, the Russian master who died in a labour camp in 1938, to the American Tess Gallagher and her lyric poems about kisses (to be published later this month to coincide with Valentine's Day).

Astley says that it was the dreariness of poetry in the 1970s that inspired him to set up Bloodaxe, (named after the vicious Viking Erik Bloodaxe, *who became King of Northumbria* in 948). "We like to think," the company says, "that Erik has helped us in the cut and thrust of book marketing, traditionally a bloody battlefield for non-profit-making literary publishers."

Poetry books were dull, *containing "academic blurb* that even readers of poetry couldn't understand." Astley recalls. Poetry needed a shake-up: "It was seen as very intellectual, Oxbridge, Hampstead-based, and cliquey."

Even relatively recently, he observes, eight out of 12 poets within a single publishing house were connected with Magdalen College, Oxford: an incoming editor, noting that they were all male, likened himself to the cox of an Oxford boat-team. So by operating from a warehouse in the North East — behind Newcastle Central Station — Bloodaxe is making a definite statement.

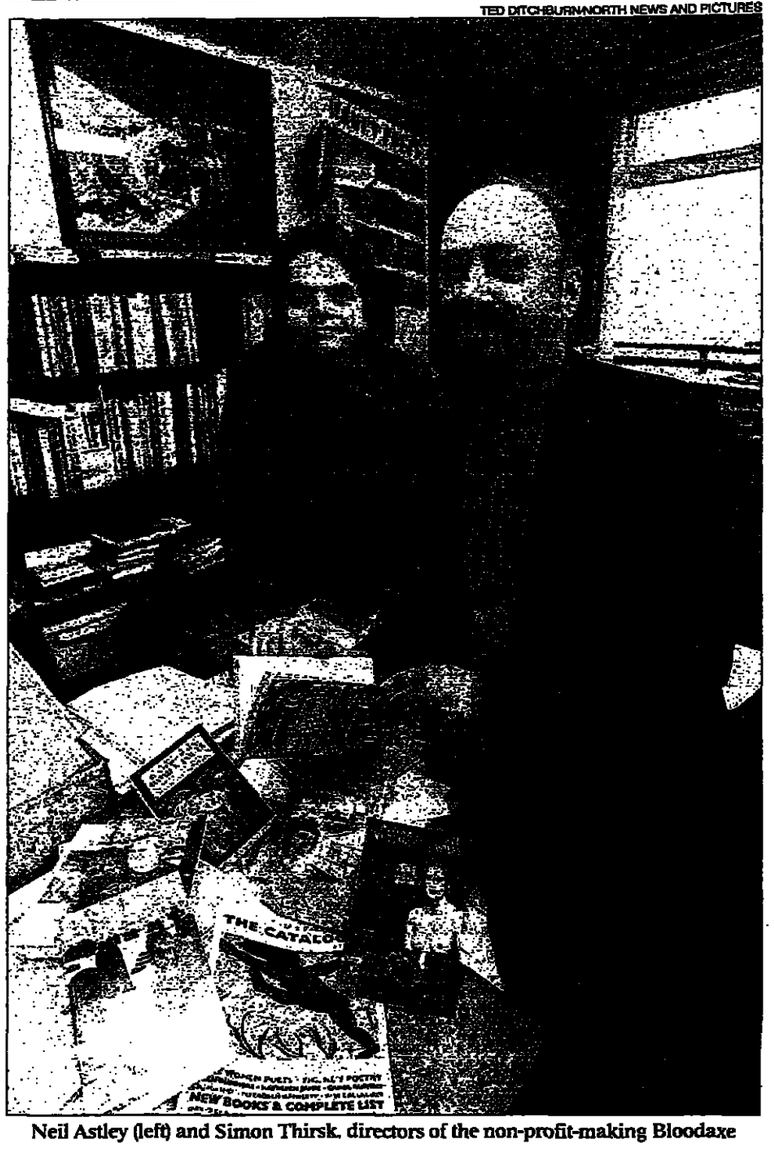
For the first four years Astley was on his own, working 16 hours a day seven days a week, and making ends meet with odd jobs in bookshops and arts administration. By 1982, to qualify for a grant, he became a limited company and took on another director Simon Thirsk, with whom he had been at Newcastle University. It is a labour of love: there are no profits. Their entire income is ploughed back into the company, paying for a staff of nine.

> "Poetry needed a shake-up — it was seen as cliquey"

Government subsidy — £70,000 from Northern Arts — enables Bloodaxe to take risks and to keep books in print even when they are selling in dribs and drabs, some as few as 300. However, sales of volumes such as *No, I'm Not Afraid* by Irina Ratushinskaya, the Russian dissident whose poetry was smuggled out of the country in bars of soap, have topped 25,000. When Ratushinskaya was finally released, she came to Newcastle for a reading. It was an emotional time, Thirsk recalls. "It shows the power of poetry."

But could we ever match the Russians' enthusiasm for poetry, with their ability to reach a mass audience? Poetry readings over there can fill stadiums the size of Wembley. Hard to imagine that ever happening here. Yet, as Thirsk points out: "Think of what the Three Tenors have done for music." He has a point. Only a few years ago, who would have imagined that opera could fill Wembley's terraces?

TED DITCHBURN/NORTH NEWS AND PICTURES



Neil Astley (left) and Simon Thirsk, directors of the non-profit-making Bloodaxe

Descent into her twenties

Voyage in the Dark
Young Vic

LIFE gave Jean Rhys many a dusty answer as she hurtled from job to job, from marriage to marriage, writing books that didn't sell very well until at last she disappeared from view. The literary world, if it remembered her at all, assumed she was dead. Her re-emergence after 20 years is a story as good as a novel, and at 72 she published *Wide Sargasso Sea*, a prequel to *Jane Eyre*, in which she imagines the life of Mr Rochester's mad wife before she was plucked from the Caribbean to end up in a Brontë novel setting light to curtains.

Memories of a childhood in the West Indies also haunt the heroine of Rhys's earlier novel, admirably adapted here by Joan Wiles for a touring production by Sphinx, formerly the Women's Playhouse Trust. Anna Morgan's stepmother has brought her to cold, unsympathetic London *after the death of her father in* warm, lush Dominica. She works as a chorus girl, falls in love with a man who eventually disengages himself; she drifts into prostitution, goes for a backstreet abortion and in a last scene, where fever hauls up voices and images from her childhood, stares aghast at the desolate future ahead. She is 19.

Anna's story is all the more poignant for being told in a plain, almost invisible style, from which perceptions suddenly pop out, causing her to seem an astonishingly real creation. She is hopeless: too *trusting, too naive, but she is* adrift in a city where women are cheaper than the clothes they wear, and Rhys presents her descent as inevitable.

Sue Parrish's production uses just five performers, on a plain, dark set atmospherically lit by Jenny Kagan. Chairs, *bed, table, rug are brought in* as required, usually *danced* on, accompanied by the music of a tango making its mockingly sensual comment on Anna's longings. The only permanent feature of Franziska Wilcken's design is a shop window displaying an ostrich-feather fan: symbol of the good life, perhaps also of the not-so-good woman.

On the streets, in bedsitters, in the private rooms of restaurants Anna's story unfolds, punctuated by Parrish with briefly frozen gestures at the end of a scene. These serve as the stage's equivalent of the cunningly simple sentences that close Rhys's chapters and lure you on to the next. Katrina Syran catches the faint loopiness of Anna's character, and the downward drift from reserve to a state where she can do up her blouse in public without caring who notices. Attractive playing by Hazel Holder and Anne White as good-time girls and disapproving landladies, and from Ian Kirkby and Michael *Vaughan as waiters and* lovers.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERTS: Democracy at work in Birmingham; second thoughts in London

Modestly out of the ordinary

CBSO/Elder
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ALTHOUGH no longer chief guest conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mark Elder will never be just another conductor as long as he insists on giving more than just another concert.

On this occasion he conducted the first Birmingham performance of Tippett's Triple Concerto, which is far from just another concerto, with a violinist, violist and cellist drawn from the front desks of what is clearly not just another orchestra.

A performance with big-name soloists would have been different, but not necessarily better. What Lynn Fletcher, Christopher Yates and Ulrich Heinen lacked, in varying degrees, was the will to assert their personalities in terms of both sound and interpretative purpose.

But, while the beginning of the concerto seems to encourage individuality in the soloists, other parts of the work — above all, the intensely lyrical central slow section at the heart of it — require them to merge their identities in a single, although multi-coloured, expressive ideal.

The first of three performances in three days (two in Symphony Hall, one in the Royal Hall, Nottingham) was texturally muddled here and there and, in spite of the conductor's urging, not always clear in its sense of direction.

On the other hand, in circumstances where there was no lack of technical skill and at the same time no affectation of virtuoso heroism, the interpretation was remarkable for an intimacy which extended beyond the soloists to the large-scale orchestral soloists behind them — most directly to their colleagues in the strings, but also to the ranks of percussionists who represent the gamelan inspiration of the work.

At the beginning of the concert Elder had secured an encouragingly poetic account of Delius's *A Song of Summer*, which was particularly sensitive in its woodwind colouring and most persuasively shaped as a miniature structure.

A second half of Holst's *Planets* — similarly idiomatic and similarly well detailed — was an intriguing prospect. Unfortunately, ambition perhaps being ahead of reality, it did not turn out that way.

A shorter score requiring less preparation in the creation of precisely defined atmosphere — the *Enigma Variations*, if it had to be both popular and British — would have obviated the frustration of *Planets* which were highly coloured and yet, except briefly in *Uranus* and at the very last breath of the receding sopranos and altos in *Neptune*, too generalised in character to exercise their mysterious influence.

GERALD LARNER

The satisfying sounds of panic

LPO/Howarth
Queen Elizabeth Hall

FOUR months after the event, the "scandal" of the Last Night of the Proms has only just died down in some correspondence columns. The scandal consisted, you may remember, in the programming of a 20-minute piece by Harrison Birtwistle entitled *Panic*. It was generally agreed that Sir Harry's piece was less strong on thumping good patriotic tunes than *Land of Hope and Glory, but there was a divergence of* opinion as to whether it had serious merit or whether it should be regarded as a kind of musical whoopie cushion.

A repeat performance by John Harle on Thursday, this time with the London Philharmonic under Elgar Howarth, *offered the chance to reappraise* the work. Finding myself last time round in the anomalous position of a Birtwistle admirer who was yet unconvinced, I was completely won over by this second performance. Was it simply further acquaintance with a complex score? Only in part, I think: this seemed in every way a more satisfactory *rendition*.

Under Howarth's experienced guidance, the players of the London Philharmonic shaped this heaving mass of notation — an evocation of the Dionysian spirit of Pan — into a fire-breathing organism. The layering of the texture (brass alternating and combining with wind) was clearly audible in a way it had not been previously, over the air at least. Harle's no-holds-barred execution of the manic saxophone part, meanwhile, was this time far better integrated into the texture. Paul Clarvis, flamboyant on drums, once again contributed to the exhilarating rhythmic drive of the piece.

The programme devised by Birtwistle around *Panic* should have included George Crumb's *Echoes of Time* and *The River; alas the logistics of* that fiendish aleatoric score demanded more rehearsal time than was available. Varèse's *Ionisation* gave the opportunity for an expanded percussion section to show its mettle.

But there was fascination *too in contrasting versions of* another work dealing with extremes of expression: Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*. Michael Gielen's version for string orchestra used refinements of timbre (mutes, sul ponticello) and redistribution of polyphonic lines *in space to highlight* the fugal argument.

Edwin Roxburgh's transcription for woodwind and brass, on the other hand, threw a garish spotlight (coloured by shricking E flat clarinet and booming tuba) onto it, creating an unbridgeable gulf between the material and the medium. Beethoven's trills may have an eccentric quality, but on brass that is exaggerated into grotesquerie. At times Roxburgh's version had an end-of-the-pier ring to it, and that is not where one expects to find the *Grosse Fuge*.

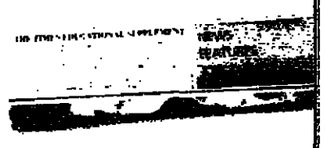
BARRY MILLINGTON



SCHOOL MANAGEMENT UPDATE
January 19

Can ordinary schooling be successful for every pupil? This Friday in The Times Educational Supplement a 20-page School Management Update looks at attempts to establish a new breed of highly reliable schools where failure is no longer tolerated.

There's also a look at how teachers can work together to improve each others' skills and advice on how schools can save money on their fuel bills.



YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

SCHUMANN'S *Carnaval*
Reviewed by Jerrold Northrop Moore



Schumann's most celebrated piano work, *Carnaval* is a suite of linked pieces enacting a masked ball. Based on four notes, their names in German spell Asch, the home of the latest flame in Schumann's 24-year-old life. But Ernestine never displaced his Clara.

A huge choice of recordings is available. The earliest playing style is shown by Adelina de Lara (1872-1961), a pupil of Clara herself, who survived her husband by 40 years. De Lara delivers a vigorous performance as part of a six-CD set, *Pupils of Clara Schumann* (Pearl GEMM 99049). Each piece follows without pause and in a continuing pulse. Her 79-year-old fingers slip occasionally, but the mono sound is passable, the touch with the past unique.

The mighty opposite in De Lara's generation was Rachmaninov. His 1929 performance (in RCA's ten-CD set of all his recordings) projects towering virtuosity, larger-than-life contrasts of speed and dynamics: undeniably exciting.

All later interpretations play between those goalposts. A healthy Clara Schumann tradition has come down through Solomon (on Testament), Myra Hess (Pearl, Biddulph and Dutton Laboratories), and Claudio Arrau, who made a good recording in 1939 (Pearl) and a more typically "agonising" one for Philips (1966).

Alfred Cortot also recorded *Carnaval* twice. Avoid the primitive acoustics of 1924 (Biddulph, Pearl). His electric version of 1928 is full of French poetry and some inaccuracies. Beware of Michelangeli's 1957 live recording on Multisonic: the last quarter of the performance is missing. Wilhelm Kempff (four-CD DG set) is dull: Barenboim's (DG budget) is the record of a fine musician on an off day.

Three of the moderns are outstanding. Jenö Jandó (super-budget Naxos 8.550784) gives a whirling performance, clangorously recorded. Ashkenazy (Decca 421 010-2) is marvellous in most ways, but his recording can also clang. Best of all is **Mitsuko Uchida** (Philips 442 777-2, coupling Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, £13.95). She understands the Schumann tradition, adds consistently fine insights of her own, possesses marvellous technique, and enjoys a sumptuous recording.

● *Order recommended recordings from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL (0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3: Shostakovich's piano quintet.*

RODNEY BEWES



A LIKELY LAD HAS COME INTO... FUNNY MONEY!
THE PLAYHOUSE
0171-839 4401

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل



FILM

Alcohol and vice do mix, at least in Mike Figgis's powerful new *Leaving Las Vegas*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

Iceland's hottest property, the wild and wacky Björk, plays Sheffield Arena
GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



BOOKS

Plots and visions among Catholic villagers: Cristina Odone unveils her first novel, *The Shrine*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



DANCE

Beautiful dreamer: Viviana Durante takes the lead in the Royal Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*
OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

South African jazzman Hugh Masekela gives **Nigel Williamson** some bad news

Free, and still chained

CHRIS BIERLIN/REDFERNS



"Only South African whites have been liberated," says Hugh Masekela, in London for a one-off Festival Hall gig

Hugh Masekela, perhaps South Africa's finest jazz musician, arrives in London this week for a rare concert, bearing a depressing message about his native land. "The only people who have been liberated are the whites," he says. "They are no longer pariahs." He adds sadly: "The lives of our people haven't changed. They voted, but if anything they are worse off than before."

The 56-year-old trumpeter, whose hits such as *Grazing in the Grass* made him an international name during 30 years in exile, returned to South Africa five years ago and has just recorded his first album in the country in which he was born.

Masekela, who has a proud record of supporting young black musicians in the townships, says South African music remains in the doldrums. There is a lot of exciting new talent around — including Busi Mhlongo, who will be singing with Masekela, and has one of the most thrilling voices to have come out of South Africa since Miriam Makeba, Masekela's former wife.

"The South African music industry is still owned by whites," Masekela says. "The club scene is virtually non-existent. People are afraid to go out because of the violence. We are working on revival, on showing off our talent. But it is like we are still a secret."

He is critical of the white liberals around the world who championed the anti-apartheid struggle but then, he feels, dropped South Africa and moved on to causes new. "They lost interest in us," he says. "They don't see that there is no investment in the townships, that the whites still own everything. It is not what the media euphoria has portrayed it to be."

Masekela has always believed that his politics and his music were inextricably linked, and will waste no opportunity to drive his message home on his brief visit. Nevertheless, the veteran jazzman, whose repertoire encompasses almost every facet of black music from hard bop to jazz ballads to infectious township beats, promises a celebratory evening with his six-piece band.

The Festival Hall concert comes as the culmination of *Africa '95*, a five-month festival of African arts which, with the exception of the outstanding exhibition at the Royal Academy, has had a disappointingly low profile. Masekela should prove a fitting climax.

"Despite the problems, South Africans are the most joyous people I know," he says. "And the music reflects that."

London has a special place in Masekela's affections. "It was where I came when I left South Africa. Johnny Dankworth and Yehudi Menuhin helped me leave and come to Britain, together with Bishop Trevor Huddleston. I have loved the place ever since."

His first trumpet was a gift from Huddleston. The story goes that the bishop paid the boy Masekela a visit when he was sick and asked: "What would make you better?" Masekela had just played truant to watch the film *Young Man With a Horn*, about the legendary Bix Beiderbecke. He had only one answer and the bishop bought him his first trumpet for £15. Later Huddleston, after his own expulsion from South Africa, persuaded Louis Armstrong to donate an instrument to the rising star back in Johannesburg.

The highlight of any Masekela set remains *Stimela*, an extended and deeply moving piece about the "coal train" that carried black miners hundreds of miles away from their families to work in appalling conditions underground. Many never returned. "There would be a riot if I didn't play that," he says. "I walk down the street and people lean out of their car windows and imitate the sound of the train from the song. I am proud of that."

Astonishingly, Sony has no plans at present to release *Notes of Life*, Masekela's new South African-recorded album, in Britain. The sort of reception a packed Festival Hall promises will hopefully be enough to change corporate minds.

● *Hugh Masekela plays the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) on Friday*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MACBETH Opening night for Paul Higgins in the title role of English Touring Theatre's successful production Stephen Unwin directs a traditional staging with vivid contemporary designs
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Tonight 7pm Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm check box office for mat schedule Until Feb 17

RESOLUTION! The Place Theatre's annual season of works by young hopefuls continues offering a wide array of new dance and some wonderful talent-spotting opportunities Three different groups share each programme this week, in addition to the British groups there are choreographers from Brazil (tonight) and Finland (Thurs)
Place, Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) Mon-Sat 8pm No perf Feb 1-5 until Feb 17

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH Soprano Sandra Porter joins the **Chamber Group of Scotland** for tonight's contribution to the Queen's Hall's English-French New Alliance

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

chamber music season an celebration of some of the rich and seductive music of Paris, and its contemporaries
Queen's Hall Clare Street (0131-668 2019) Tonight 7.45pm

BIRMINGHAM Last week of performances for Rent, Badger and, of course the irrepressible **Toad of Toad Hall** in A.A. Milne's version of The Wind in the Willows Gwenda Hughes directs with technical wizardry and wonderful songs for the holiday season favourite
Repertory, Broad Street (0121-236 4455) Today and Tue 2.30pm Wed-Sat 2.30 and 7.30pm

SWINDON Richard Studt conducts the **Bournemouth Sinfonietta** for another fun evening of Viennese swirls and twirls
Wyvern Theatre Square (01793 524481) Repeated on Thurs in **Weymouth**, Pavilion (01305 783558) Both at 7.30pm

MANCHESTER The **Vellinger Quartet**, 1994 winners of the prestigious International String Quartet competition in London show off their talents tonight with a recital of Britten Mendelssohn and Beethoven
Royal Northern College of Music Oxford Road (0161-272 4504) Tonight 7.30pm

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Ch'o and Hyo paintings (0171-636 1555) **Hayward** Art and Power Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) **National Gallery** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery** Lure of the Limelight (0171-306 0055) **Royal Academy** David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) **Tate** Colin Self Sketching the Sky Turner watercolours (0171-887 8000) **V & A** Jain Art from India, Back of the Envelope famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500)

■ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage pro and contra
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mats Wed and Sat 3pm

□ **FUNNY MONEY** Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank notes in his latest farce; Charlie Drake excellent as a sorely tried taxi-driver
Playhouse Northumberland Avenue WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs 3pm and Sat 5pm

■ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes's radiant production, Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner are mother and daughter Ben Walden is Tom
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm

□ **HYSTERIA** Henry Goodman plays Freud with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali in Terry Johnson's surreal double award-winner The funniest serious play in London
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
■ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

■ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Peter Hall revives his 1992 production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal A star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penny Downie
Theatre Royal Haymarket SW1 (0171-930 8800) Now previewing, 7.45pm opens Jan 17, 7pm

■ **THE JUNGLE BOOK** Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories
Young Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Today, 10.30am Until Jan 27

□ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL** Mime acrobatics and the haunting skills of contemporary visual theatre Various venues
Information (0171 627 5661)

■ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombes and Malcolm Mckee
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 2987) Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.30pm mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

■ **THE TOWER** Alexandre Dumas high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but it won't a vital nonetheless Sinead Cusack plays the sea-maid and murderous queen
Almeida, Almeida Street N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mat Sat, 2.30pm

■ **VOLPONE** Michael Gambon subtle and fascinating in the title role, ably supported by Simon Russell Beale as his wily sidekick
National (Olivier), South Bank SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Wed 7.15pm mat Tue, 2pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15) Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses police and corruption Directed by Carl Franklin from Walter Mosley's novel
Curzon West End (0171-569 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE RUN OF THE COUNTRY (15) Widowed father and son tussle over life and love Fecked Irish blarney with Albert Finney and US import Matt Keeslar Directed by Peter Yates
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

THE WAR (12) The children of a Vietnam vet (Kevin Costner) fight their own war with neighbouring louts Overwrought drama from Fried Green Tomatoes director Jon Avnet
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SHOWGIRLS** (18) Las Vegas stripper finds success is not everything Hollow tale of hollow people, brazenly presented by director Paul Verhoeven

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 093) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15) Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence Pretty pictures, but little oomph Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** 369 1720) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 0090) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3566)

◆ **SEVEN** (18) Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3322) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914093) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** (15) Julia Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity Talky tale with small pleasures
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

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The Royal Ballet
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Sat 2.00 (First Performance) & 7.00
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OLIVIER Tom 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 VOLPONE Ben Jonson
LYTTELTON Tom't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 WILD OATS John O'Keeffe
COTTESLOE Tom't, Tomor 7.30 VIOLIN TIME Ken Campbell

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(0171 638 8891)
BARBICAN
LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS
previews from 23 Jan
THE PIT: SLAUGHTER CITY
previews from Wed 17 Jan
STRATFORD (01789 295623)
RST: JULIUS CAESAR Tom't 7.30
SWAN: THE CHERRY ORCHARD Tom't 7.30
TOP: THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN next perf Thur 18 Jan

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SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321
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KIM WILDE As Mrs Walker
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THE MOUSETRAP

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BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
9 707.70	ABN AMRO	3076	+194	4.2	11.4
8 458.20	Abbey Nat	624½	– ½	3.5	12.8
7 446.40	Allied Irish	967	– 1	5.9	10.7
4 204.60	Bank New Z	398	– 1	5.2	
13 454.20	Bank America	39437/8	–2½		
3 280.70	Bank Scotland	776½	–6½	2.7	12.7
12 161.60	Barclays	750	–21	7.6	16.2
5 274.80	Bk of Ireland	473	– 1	3.6	9.6
150.80	Coco Alton	402	– 6	8.1	7.7
15 741.50	Lloyds	403½	–2½		
405.00	Close Bros	1350	– 9	3.7	14.9
5 513.40	Commercial	615½	– 7½	3.5	
18 135.20	Dn Nth Rom /	1255	– 50	0.8	
14 826.50	Lloyds Bk	511½	– 6½	2.4	
141.70	Saints Sants	662½	+ 3½	5.4	9.6
41 748.76	Tsb Bank 1	1361	–10½	0.4	
2 545.50	Standard Tst	464	– 3	5.1	15.0
360.70	Hambros	1704	– 9	4.6	
5 582.60	HSBC	1091	– 20	3.5	13.0
17 264.40	HSBC Hl.	978½	– 19½	3.5	12.7
544.40	Irish Perm	412	+ 7	2.9	9.1
24.90	Joseph (L)	247		5.2	15.6
79.50	King Shaxson	750	– 1	7.5	11.7
14 709.30	Lloyds TSB/I	503	– 11		
8 586.80	Nat Aust Bk	882	– 3	6.1	8.4
11 226.82	Nat West	635	– 18	4.5	9.5
31.40	Rea Brothers	428	– 1	4.9	26.0
4 673.62	Rnl Alt Scott	542	– 14	3.7	12.2
3 841.00	Schroders	1355	– 12	2.3	19.5
473.60	Schroders NV	1050	– 16	1.6	15.5
299.30	Seccpt & Trust	705	– 3	5.4	11.6
5 470.80	Stand Chart	564	– 13	2.9	14.5
25.30	Union	95	– 2	3.9	
9 246.00	Wells Fargo	5137½	–62½	2.3	
2 479.90	Westpac	2985½	– 9½	3.7	
25.20	Yasuda	210	– 5	3.5	15.2

BREWERIES

78.70	Allied Dmcq	778	+ 1		0.8
6 179.40	Bass P	703	– 26	4.0	16.2
575.20	Bridgerton	573	– 7	2.4	24.5
16.20	Burtonwd Brwl	172	– 3	3.9	16.0
40.70	Hardys & N	694	– 6	4.3	
85.30	Inds Scn 'A'	618	– 4	3.6	16.5
1 631.40	Greenalls Gp	577	– 6	3.1	
355.90	Grnce Kngs	613	– 6	2.9	15.7
52.60	Henry Nthmr	313	– 18	4.1	
7.59	Houghtons	156		4.5	10.9
36.40	Inch J	3160	– 6	2.7	16.6
106.70	Marchwd	320	+ 3	3.1	15.1
296.80	Morton Rhodn	319	– 1	3.9	15.0
139.30	Midland	583	+ 36	2.5	16.5
1.51	Paramount	87½		3.4	15.1
108.50	Pntgnl Inv	689	– 12	3.7	11.1
7 216.00	Sn Breweries	2450	– 6½	1.5	32.8
1 739.50	Scott & Newcl	602	– 6	3.5	16.4
	Scot & Nwc Def	300			
69.20	Tom Cobbold	228	– 4	1.5	36.4
1 402.60	Vaux Group	575	+ 3	4.5	14.2
335.30	Wellcmpton JD	643	– 16	1.6	26.1
1 253.50	Whitbread A	975	– 23	3.8	16.7
348.10	Whitbread Inv	481	– 14		
117.00	Wilks Brist	297	– 2½	1.3	26.4
12.50	Young ''	421		4.2	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

54.70	Abbey	143		4.7	9.0
77.10	Allen	320	– 3	3.4	16.3
188.70	Amec	93	– 3	4.8	19.6
36.60	Andrews SyMt	356			
166.50	Ashtead	182	– 3	1.7	18.0
13.10	Ashtead	38		13.8	4.5
9.50	Bailey (Geo) Con	24	– 1	5.5	5.8
47.70	Barratt	261		3.8	
441.20	Beazer Hmes	206	– 13	4.8	15.5
471.60	Bellway Homes	763	– 13	3.8	12.1
760.30	Bovis Homes	704	– 16	7.6	12.7
67	Bellwood	11	– 1½	9.1	
592.40	Bellway Hdl	502	– 20½	4.2	10.2
35.10	Bolt Group	167	– 8	4.8	6.0
42.10	Bond (Henry)	178	– 7½	5.1	8.3
30.70	Brandon Hire	103	– 2	7.0	16.6
9.47	Brickhse Gp	27	– 1½	4.7	4.5
5.04	Br Bldg & Eng	45	– 4		
250.20	Bryant	1042	– 6	6.0	9.3
37.70	CALA	82	– 5	3.5	8.5
1.50	Cantrell & Cnn	16			12.7
11.50	Clark. I	75		13.1	12.1
39.50	Costain	75	+ 3		
47.40	Countrywide	61	– 2	5.3	
57.50	Crest Nicholson	56	+ 1	4.3	8.1
13.90	Cussons	78		6.7	6.8
13.64	Evo Group	200	+ 17	5.7	10.7
15.10	Galliford	47	– 1	7.4	24.5
15.20	Glenrose (Ali)	735	– 3	7.6	14.0
6.67	Green (Ronald)	60		10.6	26.1
27.21	Hamilton Estate	37	– 1	1.9	19.7
362.62	Hanson Plc	131	– 6	3.7	13.9
51.60	Higgs & Hill	64		3.7	21.4
1.56	Howard Mchy	15		6.7	17.5
6.94	Jarvis	19			
26.20	Kcrfin	135	– 6	3.5	13.2
139.50	Lilley (J)	852	– 19	4.3	32.4
41.50	Lovell Hldgs	195	– 7	7.6	
9.61	Lovell (Y)	13	– 1		
29.50	Maunders Pln	46		3.7	10.3
100.25	McAlpine (A)	145	– 3	5.2	16.5
34.00	McKenzie & Sn	76	+ 1	3.3	10.4
26.10	Morgan Sindall	62	+ 1	1.3	
81.10	Morrison Cons	129		4.3	12.0
117.00	Mowlem (J)	61	– 7½	3.7	20.4
52.70	Persimmon	200	– 6	5.0	11.1
22.50	Poulton	108	– 3	4.2	14.4
24.50	Prowting	108	– 3	4.6	
1.51	Puramount	61			0.8
108.50	Pntgnl Inv	689	– 12	3.7	11.1
7 216.00	Sn Breweries	2450	– 6½	1.5	32.8
1 739.50	Scott & Newcl	602	– 6	3.5	16.4
	Scot & Nwc Def	300			
69.20	Tom Cobbold	228	– 4	1.5	36.4
1 402.60	Vaux Group	575	+ 3	4.5	14.2
335.30	Wellcmpton JD	643	– 16	1.6	26.1
1 253.50	Whitbread A	975	– 23	3.8	16.7
348.10	Whitbread Inv	481	– 14		
117.00	Wilks Brist	297	– 2½	1.3	26.4
12.50	Young ''	421		4.2	17.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

1.56	Abingdon	17½			
113.30	Ashtead	381	– 1	2.2	17.1
1 113.30	Blue Circle	2565	– 14	4.3	13.2
24.50	Southmere Brk	105	– 8	3.5	
47.10	Bpb	347	– 2½	7.8	15.5
21.10	Brammer	96		1.0	
57.10	Bliss Cmdle	124	– 2½	3.5	14.3
29.50	C Inman PLC	75			8.7
29.50	C Inman 'A'	75			
	Cornelius Pln	94			
1.50	Crittall Hp	120	– 1½	5.4	10.9
7.50	Cyprus Gen	42	– 1½		2.5
4 479.90	Hanson Plc	1137½	–16½	3.5	13.2
1 479.90	Hanson	1158½	– 16½	3.5	13.2
25.20	Ibstock	210	– 5	3.5	15.2

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
29.00	ABI Lea	88	– 4	6.2	9.0
18.70	Adam & Harry	435		5.6	5.7
6.45	Alexanders	16		9.5	26.3
67.20	Appleyard	101	– 1	2.4	10.9
9.19	Asc Br Eng	31½		2.1	
138.30	BSS Group†	526	+ 16	4.7	15.1
53.10	Bond	37			
5.66	Boving (Frank)	16	– ½	9.8	11.6
1.26	Bopod 'A'	26½		3.1	9.3
130.40	Brammer	436	– 4	4.0	16.4
4.95	Bridgend Gz	18		1.4	
47.20	Brr Fixings	46½		4.5	12.5
8.69	Calgary	245		5.9	16.5
10.50	Carlton Ms	77		4.5	20.9
34.10	Charles Ludnry	85	– 5	5.6	12.9
13.50	Cash (CCH)	95		3.9	8.1
485.50	Crane	301	– 4	3.9	13.0
30.50	Dist Mason	135		3.7	10.4
23.70	Dominion Tl	538	+ 13	3.4	
215.20	Diploma	385	– 1	4.7	12.5
1 413.20	Electrocomponents	334	– 12	2.2	22.7
159.50	Evered. Elec	371	– 8	1.9	19.0
15.10	Ferodo(Ast	95	+ 2½	10.6	15.5
53.90	European Mr	95	– 1	6.8	8.2
92.10	Exec. Hutchsn	281		6.8	8.9
933.00	Farnell Elect	684	– 23	1.8	18.9
10.20	Fire Indmss	66		6.2	10.8
19.90	Gardner	189	+ 2	5.5	8.7
19.40	Glendevon	34½	– ½	11	
1.91	Gowrings	86		3.3	14.3
21.80	Hanes (Philip)†	215	– 4	4.2	13.6
92.70	Headlam	253	– 1	5.4	12.5
289.30	Henlys	549	+ 52	2.3	20.4
1.15	Hickson Tech	133	– 1	5.6	25.3
61.70	Ck Intl	160	– 1	7.2	10.7
1 372.80	Inchcape	760	– 1	7.2	23.6
6.48	Jacks (Geo)	69		1.6	11.4
307.60	Kwik-Fit	178	+ 1	3.2	15.2
365.20	Lex Service	323	+ 1	3.6	17.5
28.10	Lindsay	144	– 1	4.9	14.2
17.20	Mclaurin Grp	109		6.7	14.1
52.20	Middlesbr	82½	– ½	0.7	20.1
52.20	Mitsubishi	82½	– ½	0.7	20.1
6 246.00	Ryobi Tec	1137½	–62½	2.6	
2 479.90	Wedgwr	2985½	– 9½	3.7	
25.20	Wickes	210	– 5	3.5	15.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

98.10	Abwood	118	– 2	8.2	9.5
515.98	Ambsbassdr	328	+ 38	1.5	16.4
1 666.50	Bardon Hill	914	– 19	2.6	21.1
13 567.40	BTR	335	+ 1½	5.2	14.4
17 042.40	BAT	551	– 6	5.1	17.5
300.20	Bensford Intl	196	– 16	1.8	
181.30	Bibby (JH)	116		4.3	9.3
1 291.00	Blackley Hm	52	– 1½	8.3	2.9
734.30	Charles	845	– 29	3.7	13.4
1 965.20	Cookson	788	– 11	3.2	18.4
84.90	Crompton Hoy	122	– 8	6.8	13.8
10 254.60	Dimension	2024½	– 2½	7.4	11.1
1 108.50	Hanson Cnstr	156	+ 1	7.2	15.6
15 128.50	Hutch Whampo	418	– ½	1.9	22.4
3 494.70	Jardine Math	486½	+ 4½	3.3	9.7
4.89	Jourdan (T)	25½	– ½	6.8	6.8
1 519.60	Lonrho	199½	+ 11½	3.1	21.6
101.00	McLeod Russell	165	– 1	4.8	14.9
25.10	Ferodo(Ast	95	+ 2½	10.6	15.5
53.90	European Mr	95	– 1	6.8	8.2
92.10	Exec. Hutchsn	281		6.8	8.9
933.00	Farnell Elect	684	– 23	1.8	18.9
10.20	Fire Indmss	66		6.2	10.8
19.90	Gardner	189	+ 2	5.5	8.7
19.40	Glendevon	34½	– ½	11	
1.91	Gowrings	86		3.3	14.3
21.80	Hanes (Philip)†	215	– 4	4.2	13.6
92.70	Headlam	253	– 1	5.4	12.5
289.30	Henlys	549	+ 52	2.3	20.4
1.15	Hickson Tech	133	– 1	5.6	25.3
61.70	Ck Intl	160	– 1	7.2	10.7
1 372.80	Inchcape	760	– 1	7.2	23.6
6.48	Jacks (Geo)	69		1.6	11.4
307.60	Kwik-Fit	178	+ 1	3.2	15.2
365.20	Lex Service	323	+ 1	3.6	17.5
28.10	Lindsay	144	– 1	4.9	14.2
17.20	Mclaurin Grp	109		6.7	14.1
52.20	Middlesbr	82½	– ½	0.7	20.1
52.20	Mitsubishi	82½	– ½	0.7	20.1
6 246.00	Ryobi Tec	1137½	–62½	2.6	
2 479.90	Wedgwr	2985½	– 9½	3.7	
25.20	Wickes	210	– 5	3.5	15.2

ELECTRICITY

1 263.80	East Midlands▼	637	– 11	5.8	8.6
2 437.50	Eastern Gp	975	– 2	3.6	13.0
1 148.50	London Elec▼	577	+ 15	6.7	7.7
1 317.80	Midlands Elec	783	+ 18	6.8	8.6
1 314.40	Nthrnd Grid	196	– 7	7.7	8.6
1 932.90	Nthrnd Pwr	435	– 1	4.7	9.0
5 679.30	Nat Power PP	737	– 3	4.7	9.1
588.50	Norweb Elec▼	595	– 24	7.3	7.4
594.40	Ntn Ireland	424	– 5	4.3	9.2
1 663.10	Powergen	1004	– 9	4.2	9.7
1 260.10	PowerGen (PP)	186	– 11	4.1	11.1
1 379.30	Hydro-Elect	859	– 3	5.1	9.8
1 571.20	Scottish Power	375	– 7	4.8	10.9
1 308.00	Seebourd	533	+ 6	3.4	11.4
752.20	So Wales	477	+ 3	4.6	10.3
1 594.40	Southern Elec	914	+ 3	4.2	12.4
1 244.90	Yorkshire Elec	674	– 9	6.6	7.2

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

197.90	Acal	558	+ 1	1.7	20.3
212.10	Aaron Comp	536	– 1		
102.30	Admiral	825	+ 2	1.2	21.6
152.90	Alba	264	– 14	2.6	17.0
212.80	Amstrad	187½	– 1½	2.7	46.9
25.30	Arlen	34	– 1	2.2	11.2
341.00	Autec	110½	– 5½	1.5	17.2
129.90	Azlan	382	– 9½	0.5	21.5
1 040.00	BICC	429	– 5	3.5	21.3
23.30	Beales Hunter	228	– 2	5.8	11.8
144.30	Blick	470	+ 2	3.5	13.5
760.50	Brammer	393	– 10	3.8	17.9
6.12	Bulgin (AF) A	23½	– ½	2.1	9.4
24.10	CML Micro	123		3.7	13.9
24.50	Channel Hldgs	57		6.1	7.6
57.50	Chloride	334		1.9	30.7
11.30	Clr(Alfred)	20		5.6	11.9
93.70	Corp Elect	397	– ½	4.2	
34.00	Coutinhey	63½	– 7	1.9	25.5
1 121.50	Dares Es Syst	565	– 15	8.4	30.5
601.40	Delta	402	– 4	4.9	13.5
107.50	Domino	404	+ 1	3.1	13.3
38.60	Dowding Mills	64		5.4	17.8
177.60	Dnsch	2775	+175	0.6	29.7
2 046.40	Electrocomp	2873½	– 21½	2.3	44
25.20	Elmtrn	33	+ ½	0.7	
1 296.10	Emerson B	1269½	– 15½	3.5	8.7
29.10	Eurocastle	68		4.4	
450.90	Eurocomml	543	– 7	4.1	11.7
446.60	Furey Group	546	+ 6	1.7	25.0
174.20	Filtronic Com	405	– 14	6.2	54.8
649.10	Fortnum Cpr	649	– 1	3.4	10.3
25.70	Fortnum Rnds	86	– 4	3.6	12.9
1 970.10	GEC	1655	+ 4	4.3	17.5
63.20	Geeraby	132	+ 1	5.2	12.0
34.10	Intl Control	109	+ 1	5.5	21.6
24.50	Intl Stores	74	– 1	4.1	15.1
115.00	Kenwood App	264	+ 11	5.2	10.9
9.30	Kode	29½			
9.06	Lfe Ind	29½			13.2
61.00	MTL Inst	209		2.4	13.2
17.70	Marconi Co	146½	– 1½	1.4	18.6
37.30	Micgenius	126½	– 1½	2.8	16.9
15.50	Micro	54½	– 1½		
37.50	Oxford Inst	175	– 1	1.8	21.2
7.91	Parkd Instrmn	29½	– ½	3.4	19.4
7.50	Perry	44½	– 1½	3.4	
1 596.30	Perry Lnsg Sv	1140	– 10	3.5	19.3
13.50	Pilkington	78	– 1	3.8	17.1
13.50	Pilkington A	78	– 1	3.8	17.1
1	Pittsburgh▼	1½			
1.50	Polly Peck	3½			
1	Portsmouth	1½			
1	Powerscreen	1½			
1	Prosser	1½			
1	Quantel Ltd	1½			
1	Quantel Ord	1½			
1	Racal Elect	1½			
1	Racal Tele	1½			
1	Redman	1½			
1	Redpath	1½			
1	Renishaw	1½			
1	Rotaflex	1½			
1	Rotork	1½			
1	Russell	1½			
1	Sage	1½			
1	Sanderson	1½			
1	Sarantel	1½			
1	Scapa	1½			
1	Scot Mtge	1½			
1	Scottish Tch	1½			
1	Sema	1½			
1	Shandwick	1½			
1	Shires	1½			
1	Smiths Ind	1½			
1	Spectrum	1½			
1	Spirent	1½			
1	Stanley	1½			
1	Sthn Electric	1½			
1	Surrey Elec	1½			
1	Tadpole	1½			
1	Tandem	1½			
1	Tech Trans	1½			
1	Thorn EMI	1½			
1	Thorntons	1½			
1	Tomkins	1½			
1	Trafalgar	1½			
1	Vinten	1½			
1	Vitec	1½			
1	Vodafone	1½			
1	Wace	1½			
1	Wagon Ind	1½			
1	Watmoughs	1½			
1	Wilson Bowden	1½			
1	Wolfson Micro	1½			
1	Yamaha	1½			

ENGINEERING

41.80	AEA	118		3.4	27.7
1	Aberdeen	1½			
1	Acrow	1½			
1	Alvis	1½			
1	Amec	1½			
1	Anglo Amer	1½			
1	Ash & Lacy	1½			
1	Babcock	1½			
1	Bamford (JC)	1½			
1	Barlow	1½			
1	Bellis & Morcom	1½			
1	Bodycote	1½			
1	Brdfrd Dyers	1½			
1	Brit Aerospace	1½			
1	Br Steel†	1½			
1	Brown (J)	1½			
1	Brunner Inv	1½			
1	Bryan (Charles)	1½			
1	Bunzl	1½			
1	Burndy	1½			
1	Burnsall	1½			
1	Caradon	1½			
1	Cattles	1½			
1	Chamberlin & Hill	1½			
1	Chrysalis	1½			
1	Clarkson	1½			
1	Coats Vyella	1½			
1	Cobham	1½			
1	Coltec	1½			
1	Concentric	1½			
1	Cookson	1½			
1	Cosalt	1½			
1	Courtaulds†	1½			
1	Crane	1½			
1	Cray Electron	1½			
1	Crouch	1½			
1	Dale Electric	1½			
1	Delta	1½			
1	Dewhirst	1½			
1	Dobson Park	1½			
1	Dowty	1½			
1	Draper	1½			
1	Dunlop	1½			
1	Electrocomp	1½			
1	Elementis	1½			
1	Engnd Ind	1½			
1	Enterprise	1½			
1	Evered	1½			
1	Expro	1½			
1	Fairey	1½			
1	Fenner	1½			
1	Firth	1½			
1	Fitzwilton	1½			
1	Flextech	1½			
1	Forward Tech	1½			
1	Fox (Henry)	1½			
1	Gen Engnrng	1½			
1	Gen Scientific	1½			
1	Glynwed	1½			
1	Gomme	1½			
1	Gooding	1½			
1	Guinness Peat	1½			
1	Guthrie	1½			
1	Hall Engnrng	1½			
1	Halma	1½			
1	Hampson	1½			
1	Harrisons	1½			
1	Hawtin	1½			
1	Hepworth	1½			
1	Hewden Stuart	1½			
1	Hickson	1½			
1	Hill & Smith	1½			
1	Hillsdown	1½			
1	Hobson	1½			
1	Holset Engnrng	1½			
1	Hunting	1½			
1	Hunting Gate	1½			
1	Hydraulics	1½			
1	IMI	1½			
1	Ingersoll Rand	1½			
1	Interlink	1½			
1	Invensys	1½			
1	Jacobs	1½			
1	Johnson Matthey	1½			
1	Kalon	1½			
1	Kennedy	1½			
1	Kidde	1½			
1	Kleeneze	1½			
1	Laird	1½			
1	Lancashire	1½			
1	Lasmo	1½			
1	Lawson Mardon	1½			
1	Lindustries	1½			
1	Linread	1½			
1	Lucas Varity	1½			
1	Lynx	1½			
1	Macfarlane	1½			
1	Mackay	1½			
1	Manganese Bz	1½			
1	Marshall Cav	1½			
1	Matthey	1½			
1	Meggitt	1½			
1	Melrose	1½			
1	Metalrax	1½			
1	Metal Box	1½			
1	Metalurgia	1½			
1	Mettoy	1½			
1	Micro Focus	1½			
1	Molins	1½			
1	Morgan Crucible	1½			
1	Morgan Grenfell	1½			
1	Morrison Mchy	1½			
1	Nash Seeley	1½			
1	Nelson	1½			
1	Newman Tonks	1½			
1	Nichols (JL)	1½			
1	Nthn Foods†	1½			
1	Nthmbrn Pn	1½			
1	Pascall	1½			
1	Pegler Hattersley	1½			
1	Penman	1½			
1	Pentos	1½			
1	Perkins Engnrng	1½			
1	Pilkington	1½			
1	Pochin	1½			
1	Porvair	1½			
1	Powell Duffryn	1½			
1	Powerscreen	1½			
1	Prosser	1½			
1	Quantel	1½			
1	Racal Elect	1½			
1	Racal Tele	1½			
1	Redman	1½			
1	Redpath	1½			
1	Renishaw	1½			
1	Rotaflex	1½			
1	Rotork	1½			
1	Russell	1½			
1	Sage	1½			
1	Sanderson	1½			
1	Sarantel	1½			
1	Scapa	1½			
1	Scot Mtge	1½			
1	Scottish Tch	1½			
1	Sema	1½			
1	Shandwick	1½			
1	Shires	1½			
1	Smiths Ind	1½			
1	Spectrum	1½			
1	Spirent	1½			
1	Stanley	1½			
1	Sthn Electric	1½			
1	Surrey Elec	1½			
1	Tadpole	1½			
1	Tandem	1½			
1	Tech Trans	1½			
1	Thorn EMI	1½			
1	Thorntons	1½			
1	Tomkins	1½			
1	Trafalgar	1½			
1	Vinten	1½			
1	Vitec	1½			
1	Vodafone	1½			
1	Wace	1½			
1	Wagon Ind	1½			
1	Watmoughs	1½			
1	Wilson Bowden	1½			
1	Wolfson Micro	1½			
1	Yamaha	1½			

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21.10	Brammer	96		1.0	
57.10	Bliss Cmdle	124	– 2½	3.5	14.3
29.50	C Inman PLC	75			8.7
29.50	C Inman 'A'	75			
	Cornelius Pln	94			
1.50	Crittall Hp	120	– 1½	5.4	10.9
7.50	Cyprus Gen	42	– 1½		2.5
4 479.90	Hanson Plc	1137½	–16½	3.5	13.2
1 479.90	Hanson	1158½	– 16½	3.5	13.2
25.20	Ibstock	210	– 5	3.5	15.2

BUSINESS SERVICES

	3i Grp				
	Abbey Nat				
	Aberdeen Asset				
	Abtrust				
	Acal				
	Aegis				
	Allied Dmcq				
	Amec				
	Amstrad				
	Anglo Amer				
	Arjo Wiggins				
	Ash & Lacy				
	Ashtead				
	Assoc Brit Ports				
	Assoc Nwspapers				
	Atlantic Cnsl				
	Autonomy				
	Babcock				
	Bank Scotland		

صكذا من الاصل

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Intelek, Tomkins.
Finals: Coda Group, PWS Holdings, Second Consolidation Trust.
Economic statistics: Producer prices (December).

TOMORROW

Interims: Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, Farepak, Remy Cointreau.
Finals: Alexanders Holdings, Citicorp, Gresham Telecomputing, Intel, Microgen Holdings, Quality Care Homes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Apple Computer (Q1), Budgens, Dudley Jenkins Group, Nobo Group, Photo-Me International, Stanley Leisure, UK Land.
Finals: Ameritech, Bankamerica, First Leisure, Irish Continental.
Economic statistics: Monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, PSBR (December), unemployment (December), average earnings (November).

THURSDAY

Interims: Helton Holdings, Magnum Power, McKay Securities, William Ransom, Tottenham Hotspur, Vega Group.
Finals: Aberforth Smaller Companies, Bankers Trust New York Corpn, Brooke Tool Engineering, Brunner IT, Greenwich Resources, Hill & Smith, Microsoft, Neotronics Technology, Premier Land, St David's IT.
Economic statistics: Retail prices (December), retail sales (December), British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey, Bundesbank council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Abtrust Lloyd's Insurance Trust, British Bloodstock Agency, Cantors, Mitie Group, Park Food Group.
Finals: None scheduled.
Economic statistics: Motor vehicle production (December).

COMPANIES  PHILIP PANGALOS

Tomkins keeps Gates in its sights



Greg Hutchings is expected to reveal where Tomkins stands in its negotiations with Gates

TOMKINS: The diversified conglomerate, whose empire spans Ranks Hovis McDougall milling and baking to Smith & Wesson handguns, is expected to accompany a solid rise in first-half profits with upbeat noises on prospects when it reports today.

Apart from current trading and prospects, Greg Hutchings, the chairman, will be pressed to provide further details on the group's proposed acquisition of Gates Rubber, the private American motor components group whose products include transmission belts and hoses.

The City still awaits specific financial details concerning the deal, which is rumoured to be worth more than $1 billion, excluding $240 million of debt, but could swell to $1.5 billion.

The company said on Friday that it had nearly completed the detailed contract negotiation on its purchase of Gates, although a couple of technical issues, unrelated to the business, were said to be outstanding.

Gates and Tomkins have been discussing final terms of the deal since mid-December and said a month ago that they expected contracts to be signed by the year end.

Louise Hough at SBC Warburg is looking for first-half pre-tax profits to advance to £128 million (£114.5 million), with an improved interim dividend of 2.75p (2.43p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £120 million to £130 million.

On the trading front, analysts will be looking to see how the RHM business is performing, given that bread prices are showing signs of recovery. They say fears have been overdone, with the much-trumpeted supermarket bread price wars not having fed through to the producers, while milling and baking has actually seen some price rises.

Analysts will also be waiting to see whether Tomkins has suffered any slowdown in growth in the United States. In spite of adverse movements in the dollar exchange rate, the Smith & Wesson handguns business is thought to be doing well worldwide, with any noises about gun control in America merely fuelling sales in the US market. Elsewhere, items such as snow blowers will have benefited from the recent freeze that gripped the East Coast of America. But lawnmowers and bicycles are still price competitive, with the latter possibly seeing greater competition from China.

With Tomkins's profits skewed towards the second half of its year, which runs to April 30, analysts expect the group to achieve full-year pre-tax profits of between £330 million and £335 million, compared with £303 million last time.

FIRST LEISURE: The bingo, ten-pin bowling and discotheques group is expected to provide news of more buoyant trading when it reports full-year figures on Wednesday, in spite of the adverse effects of the hot summer weather on some of its indoor attractions.

After a recent comprehensive, and largely positive, trading update in November, analysts at NatWest Securities expect final pre-tax profits to advance to £39.2 million (£36.1 million). A dividend of 7.7p (7.02p) is predicted.

Dancing is expected to see like-for-like sales growth of about 7 per cent, with growth in admissions and spend-per-head. Sports should also advance, boosted as the Bracknell health and fitness club trades at full capacity.

The group's bingo division will benefit from the opening of seven new clubs during the year, but competition from the National Lottery is set to have depressed trading at the older bingo clubs, where sales are likely to have fallen by about 9 per cent.

BUDGENS: The series of Christmas trading updates from retailing groups continues on Wednesday, when the supermarket chain unveils its interim results.

After years of suffering cut-price competition, Budgens should take another step on the road to recovery. In September, it revealed a return to sales growth, and this should enable first-half pre-tax profits to climb to about £4 million (£1.8 million), according to Kleinwort Benson. A maintained interim dividend of 0.3p is expected.

STANLEY LEISURE: The bookmaker and casino operator should be able to partly offset the adverse effects of competition from the National Lottery and scratchcards with better news from its casinos.

UBS expects Stanley Leisure's interim pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to show a drop to about £6.5 million (£7.6 million), though the dividend is predicted to rise to 2.2p (2p).

Analysts say the key to long-term prospects is how the racing business is faring after the hot summer reduced the size of fields, the National Lottery's impact on betting shops and how much casino customers spent.

PHOTO-ME: Wednesday's first-half profits from Photo-Me International, the photo booth maker and operator, which derives the bulk of its earnings overseas, are expected to show a modest rise. The company, which also runs copiers, express print services and automatic film processing systems, may suffer from the short-term effects of depreciation charges on its equipment. Kleinwort Benson has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £11 million, up from £10 million.

MITIE GROUP: The building maintenance company, which supplies services such as painting and decorating to property owners and occupiers, rounds off the week on Friday with what is expected to be another solid set of interim results. Mitie's profit margins are thought to have improved over recent months, which should be reflected in first-half profits that comfortably top last time's £1.85 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus on key prices figures

A bumper crop of economic statistics surrounds Wednesday's monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

There are two key sets of prices figures. Today, producer prices are published for December. The consensus forecast, according to MMS International, is for the annual rate of input price inflation to fall to 5.9 per cent, from 6.2 per cent in November, and for output price inflation to edge down to 4.1 per cent, from 4.3 per cent.

On Thursday, it is expected that figures for headline retail prices inflation will show a drop to 3 per cent, from 3.1 per cent in November. Underlying inflation is forecast to have edged down to 2.8 per cent, from 2.9 per cent. The RPIY measure, excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is expected to be unchanged at 2.4 per cent.

Thursday also sees December retail sales figures, which, based on anecdotal and survey evidence, are expected to confirm a healthy Christmas shopping season. The MMS consensus forecast is for a rise in volumes of 0.7 per cent, pushing up year-on-year growth in sales to 1.5 per cent, from 1.1 per cent in November.

On Wednesday, December's public sector borrowing requirement is published, with the market expecting a figure of about £550 million after November's large borrowing requirement of £3.7 billion. On the same day, labour market statistics are released for December. Unemployment is expected to have fallen by about 10,000 after a fall of 20,000 in November. Average earnings annual growth is predicted to have edged up to 3.5 per cent, from 3.25 per cent.

On Thursday, the Bank of France holds its council meeting and its annual press conference on monetary policy for 1996, while the Bundesbank's policy-making council meets in Frankfurt. On Saturday, finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrialised countries meet in Paris.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** British Aerospace, Ashbourne. **Sell** Hodder Headline. *The Sunday Telegraph:* **Buy** GEC, Crown Products, Sipa Resources. *Independent on Sunday:* **Buy** National Grid, Fuller Smith & Turner. *Observer:* **Buy** Matthew Clark. *The Mail on Sunday:* **Buy** Mirror Group, Reunion Mining.

BUY ONE FULL PRICE TICKET AND GET ANOTHER FOR THE PRICE OF YOUR FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Theatre tickets for only 30p

Today *The Times* brings you the second part of the selection of theatres around the country offering you the chance to take a friend to the theatre for just 30p, the price of Britain's leading quality daily newspaper. There are more than 140 shows at more than 60 theatres throughout the country to choose from.

Musicals feature heavily in the list of shows available, including *Buddy* in Llandudno, *Blood Brothers* in York and *Five Guys named Moe* in Nottingham. Clarke Peters, who created *Five Guys Named Moe*, can be seen in person in his latest show *Unforgettable — The Nat King Cole Story* in Edinburgh, Inverness and Woking. Other stars in our offer include Adam Faith in Darlington, Tony Slattery in Sheffield and Peter Davison in Bradford and Southend.

Old Time Music Hall retains its popularity and there's no better place to enjoy a night at the music hall than the City Varieties Theatre in Leeds, home of the BBC's *The Good Old Days* for over 20 years, where Linda Nolan heads the cast. You can also enjoy Music Hall in Darlington where Danny La Rue tops the bill.

Whatever your taste in theatre, from Shakespeare to popular contemporary writers, you are guaranteed a great evening.

To take advantage of our offer reserve your tickets by telephone directly with your chosen theatre and collect five of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and attach them to the voucher below. Token two appears below. When you purchase one ticket at the listed price you will receive a second of equal value for 30p.

A full list of participating theatres in London and the south of England appeared on Saturday.



Beauty and the Beast: David Essex wrote the music and lyrics for the show

HOW TO GET YOUR 30p THEATRE TICKETS

Collect five of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and telephone the number given for the performance of your choice. When you buy one ticket at the listed price, you will receive a second ticket for 30p. Please do not telephone the theatre before Thursday, January 18, which is the first day they will start accepting bookings for this offer. Please state at the time of booking you are using *The Times* theatre ticket offer tokens. You may book over the phone but tickets cannot be issued until tokens have been received by the booking office. The offer is limited to one 30p ticket per performance per household. You may, however, book for more than one show at venues marked * and claim a 30p ticket for each production, but you must book all your tickets at the same time. You will not need another set of five tokens for each performance, the voucher (right) will cover them all. The tokens are valid only for the performance stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer. All tickets are subject to availability.

BIRMINGHAM
Alexandra Theatre 0121-643 1231 *Great Expectations* with Darren Day, Nyree Dawn Porter and Colin Baker, Jan 22 to Feb 17 inc Weds mat — £18.50/£19.50/£21.50.

BLACKPOOL
Pleasure Beach Arena 01253 341707 *Beauty and the Beast*, with the Russian All Stars, Jan 24, 25, 26, 7.30pm, Jan 27 and 28 at 2pm and 7.30pm — £19.50/£17.50/£12.50.

BRADFORD
Alhambra Theatre* 01274 752 000 *The Roy Orbison Story - Only The Lonely*, Feb 26, 7.30pm — stalls only £15.50/£17.50. *The Changing Room*, Apr 1 — stalls only £13/£15. *Dial M For Murder* with Peter Davison and Katherine Rabbett, Mar 4 — £13/£15.

BUXTON
Opera House* 01298 72190 *Unexpected Guest*, Jan 24, 25, 26, 7.30pm, Jan 27, 2.30pm — all ticket prices. *Farndale Avenue Murder Mystery*, Jan 31, Feb 1 and 2, 7.30pm, Feb 3, 2.30pm — all ticket prices. *Pride and Prejudice* with Janet Brown, Feb 7 and 8 at 7.30pm — £9.50. *Phil Cool*, Feb 11 at 7.30pm — £9.

CHESTER
Gateway Theatre* 01244 340 392 *California Suite*, Feb 2 to 10 — Tues/Weds/Thurs: £7.50/£9.50; Fri/Sat: £10/£12. *Bouncers*, Mar 1 to 9, Tues/Weds/Thurs: £7.50/£9.50; Fri/Sat: £10/£12. *Strangers on a Train*, Apr 1 to 6 (no performance on Apr 5), Tues/Weds/Thurs: £7.50/£9.50; Sat: £10/£12.

COVENTRY
Belgrade Theatre 01203 553 055 *Whole Lotta Shakin' - The Explosive Story of Jerry Lee Lewis* with Bill Geraghty, Jan 30 to Feb 24 — any performance, £9/£15, concs available.

DARLINGTON
Civic Theatre* 01325 486 555 *Conduct Unbecoming* with Carol Drinkwater, Gerald Harper, Christopher Blake and John Benfield, Feb 20 to 23 at 7.30pm — £14.50. *Adzido Pan African Dance Ensemble - Thand' Abantwana*, Mar 12 and 13 — £12.50. *Phoenix Dance Company* incl. *Haunted Passages and Movements in 8*, Mar 18 — £12.50. *A Passionate Woman* with Stephanie Cole, Mar 19 to 22 — £14.50. *Dial M for Murder* with Peter Davison, Apr 2 to 5 — £14.50. *Now You Know* with Adam Faith, Apr 16 to 19 — £14.50. *The Good Olde Days* with Danny La Rue, Steven Barclay and The Holloways, May 7 to 10 — £10.50.

HALIFAX
Viaduct Theatre 01422 344 555 *The Cracked Pot*, Feb 13, 14, 20, 21 — £8 and £5 concs.

HARROGATE
Harrogate Theatre 01423 502 116 *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Jan 26, 27 and 30 — £5.50/£10.50/£8.50/£12.

LEEDS
Grand Theatre 0113-245 9351 *Opera North - Love Life*, Jan 24 (half price preview tickets), Jan 30 and 31 — £24/£28/£36. City Varieties Music Hall 0113 242 5045. *The Good Olde Days* with Linda Nolan, Mar 29, Apr 12, 19, 26, evenings, Mar 30, Apr 3, 20, 27, matinées — all ticket prices. West Yorkshire Playhouse 0113 244 2111 *The Government Inspector* with Bob Mason, Feb 15 to 29 — £12.50/£10.

Musical delight: *Five Guys Named Moe*, the Theatre Royal, Nottingham

LEICESTER
Haymarket Theatre* 0116-253 9797 *The Homecoming*, Mar 7 to 23 — £8.50 for previews and weekday matinées, £12.50 Mon to Thurs, £14.50 Fri and Sat. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Roger Lloyd Pack, Annette Badland and Helen Baxendale, Feb 8 to Mar 2 — £8.50 for previews and weekday matinées, £12.50 Mon to Thurs, £14.50 Fri and Sat. *Privates on Parade* with Berwick Kaler, May 3 to 25, £8.50 for previews and weekday matinées, £12.50 Mon to Thurs, £14.50 Fri and Sat.

MIDDLESBROUGH
Little Theatre* 01642 815 181 *The Woman in Black* with Ian Lindsay and Ian Targett, Feb 13 to 15 — £7 and £6 concs. *Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox*, Mar 19, 20, 21 — £7 and £5 concs. *Twelfth Night*, Apr 16, 17, 18, 7.30pm — £7 and £6 concs. *The Wind in the Willows* May 14 and 15 — £7 and £5 concs. *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, May 20, 21 and 23 — £7 and £6 concs.

Anton Rodgers as Scrooge in the musical *A Christmas Carol*

MANCHESTER
Palace Theatre 0161-242 2503 *Beauty and the Beast* with the Russian All Stars, Mar 27, 28 and 29, 7.30, Mar 30 and 31 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm — £19.50/£16.50/£12.50/£7.50/£5.50.

NEWCASTLE
Arena 0191-401 8000 *Beauty and the Beast* with the Russian All Stars, Feb 21 and 22 at 7.30, Feb 24 at 2pm and 7.30 — £16.50/£15/£12.50/£10.

NOTTINGHAM
Theatre Royal 0115-948 2626 *A Christmas Carol* with Anton Rodgers and Owen Paul, matinee only Jan 30 and 31, and Feb 1 — £9/£19.50, stalls, dress and upper circle and balcony. *Five Guys Named Moe*, Feb 5 and 6 — £16/£18.50, stalls and dress circle. *Swan Lake*, Feb 13 — £18 stalls, dress and upper circle.

PRESTON
Guild Hall 0161-242 2503 *Beauty and the Beast* with the Russian All Stars, Apr 3, 4, 5, 7.30pm, Apr 6 and 7 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm — £19.50/£16.50/£12.50/£7.50/£5.50.

SUNDERLAND
Empire Theatre* 0191-514 2517 *La Boheme/Lusa Miller/Love Life*, Feb 20 to 24 — £6/£14/£18/£22/£30/£34. *Lucky Sods*, Feb 13 at 7.30pm — £4.50/£5/£6/£7.50/£8.50.

SHEFFIELD
Sheffield Theatre 0114-276 9922 *Privates on Parade* with Tony Slattery and Nicholas Le Prevost, Feb 5 at 7.45pm — £14/£16

WHITLEY BAY
Playhouse* 0191-252 3505 *The Magic Flute*, Feb 9 and 10 at 7.00pm — £6. *Two* Feb 29 at 7.30pm — £7.50. *Dr Faustus*, Mar 18 and 19 at 7.30pm — £6. *The Old Man and the Angel*, Apr 10 and 11, 7.30pm — £7.50.

WORCESTER
Swan Theatre* 01905 273 22 *Merchant of Venice*, Feb 12 — £6.50. *Ring-a-Ring-o-Roses*, Mar 7 — £6.50. *Steaming* Apr 4 — £6.50.

YORK
Grand Opera House* 01904 671 818 *Blood Brothers*, Jan 16 — £19.50. *Carmen*, Jan 24, 7.30pm — £15. *Beauty and the Beast*, with the Russan All Stars, Jan 31, Feb 1 and 2 at 7.30pm, Feb 3 and 4 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm — Wed/Thurs evenings: £16.50/£16/£14.50/£12.50/£4, Fri/Sat/Sun evenings: £19.50/£17/£15.50/£13.50/£5; matinees: £15/£13.50/£11.50/£10/£3. *Tutti Frutti*, Feb 5, 8.00pm — £13.50. *Ferry Cross the Mersey* with Gerry Marsden, Mar 18, 7.30pm — £15.50. *My Cousin Rachael*, Mar 25 at 7.30pm — £12.50. *What a Feeling!* with Irene Cara, Sonia and Felice Arena, Apr 2 at 7.30pm — £15.50.

WALES

LLANDUDNO
North Wales Theatre 01492 872 000
Buddy, Mar 12 at 8pm — £11/£15/£17/£19.

CARDIFF
Sherman Theatre 01222 230 451 *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, Feb 13 to 17 at 7.30pm — all tickets.

SCOTLAND

DUNDEE
Caird Hall 01382 434941 *Beauty and the Beast* with the Russian All Stars, Feb 7, 8 and 9 at 7.30pm, Feb 10 and 11 at 2pm and 7.30pm — £16/£14/£12.

EDINBURGH
Royal Lyceum Theatre 0131-229 9697 *The Steamie* with Ann Louise Ross, Janette Foggo, Muriel Romanes and Caroline Hutton, Jan 22 and 23 at 7.45pm — £10/£11.50. Festival Theatre 0131-529 6000. *Gulliver's Travels*, Jan 23 to 27 at 7pm — £5. Kings Theatre* 0131-220 4349. *Unforgettable - The Nat King Cole Story*, Jan 30 and 31, Feb 1 — £14.50. *Beauty and the Beast* with the Russian All Stars, Feb 14 and 16 at 7.30pm, Feb 15 and 17 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm — evenings: £20/£18/£16/£15/£12/£10; matinées: £14/£12/£10/£9/£7/£5.

GLASGOW
Tron Theatre* 0141-5524267 *Heaven*, Jan 31 at 8pm — £7.50/£6.50. *Dr Faustus*, Jan 14 at 8pm — £7.50/£6.50. *...And Other Curious Questions*, Feb 21 at 8pm — £7.50/£6.50. *Endgame* with Forbes Masson and Jan Witson, Mar 10 at 7pm — £8/£7

GLENROTHES
Rothes Hall* 01592 611 101 *Midge Ure in Concert*, Jan 23, 8pm — £8/£9.50. *Ann Breen and Johnny McEvoy in Concert*, Jan 25 at 8.pm — £8.50 and £7.50 concs. *Burns 200 - The Tribute* with Johnny Beabe, Dean Park, John Murtagh and Mary Cameron, Jan 31 at 7.30pm — £8.50/£7.50. *Wind in the Willows*, Feb 14, 1.30pm and 7.pm — £7. *The Vienna Festival Ballet - Cinderella*, Feb 17 at 7.30pm — £11 and £9 concs. *The Vienna Festival Ballet - Sleeping Beauty*, Feb 18, 7.30pm — £11 and £9 concs. *The Chippendales* (Adults only), Mar 21, 8pm — £13/£14.50.

INVERNESS
Eden Court Theatre 01463 221 718 *Unforgettable - The Nat King Cole Story* with Clarke Peters, Feb 13 to 15 at 8.00pm — £14/£16. *Hansel and Gretel*, Feb 21 at 7.15pm — £17/£22/£26.

STIRLING
MacRobert Arts Centre* 01786 461 081 *Twelfth Night*, Feb 27 to 29 Feb at 7.30pm — £8/£6. *Random Dance Company - For Brusang Archangel, Cyborg and Jacob's Membrane*, Feb 10 at 7.30pm — £5.50/£4.

THE TIMES 30p THEATRE TICKETS

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This form, when five different *Times* tokens are attached, entitles the bearer to buy a theatre ticket at the price listed in the *Times* offer and to get another one for 30p. At theatres marked with an asterisk, you can also use this voucher and five tokens to buy tickets for the other shows listed and receive a second ticket for 30p for each show.

THE TIMES 30p THEATRE TICKETS TOKEN 2

British Coal to sell over 1,000 acres in Wales

BY MARTIN BARROW

MORE than 1,000 acres of agricultural land and woodland, properties and farm buildings in Wales will be offered for sale today in the privatisation of British Coal's property assets.

The property is in the Wrexham, Ewloe and Buckley areas of North Wales and the sale offers an opportunity to purchase agricultural land in a part of the country where farms and land traditionally remain under family ownership for generations.

Carter Jonas, the property agent, is acting on behalf of British Coal. The assets are being offered for sale by private treaty as a whole, in ten separate lots, or in combinations of lots for which offers must be submitted by March 11.

A package of land at Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, includes a section of the ancient monument of Offa's Dyke, a series of earthworks running from near the mouth of the Wye to near the mouth of the Dee, dividing England from Wales. It was built between the years 757 and 796 by Offa, the king of Mercia, to mark the frontier established by his wars with the Welsh.

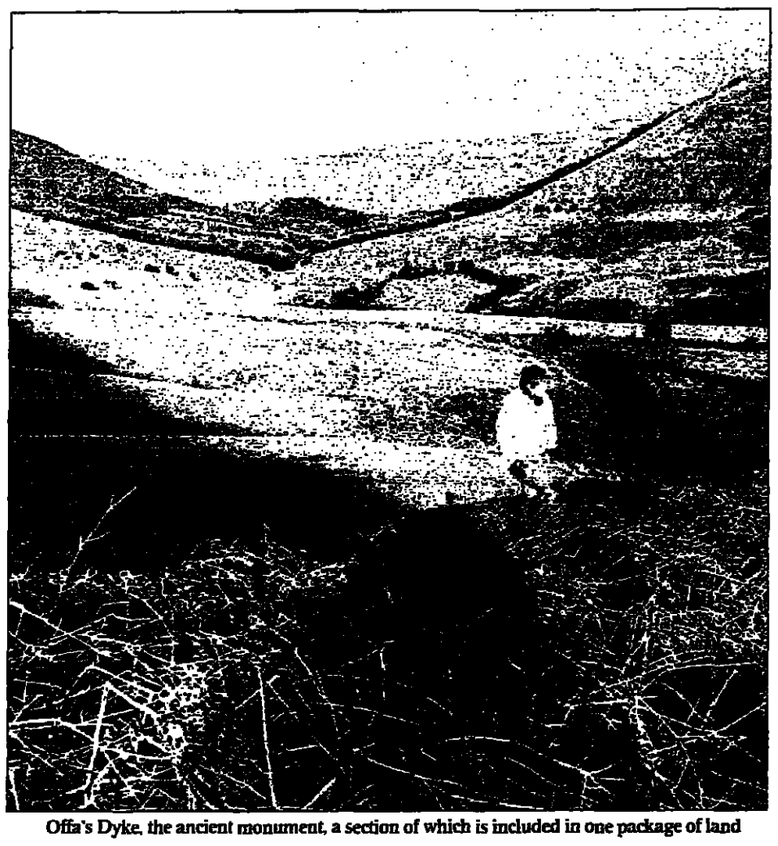
David Wenn, British Coal's head of property, said: "The North Wales package represents the biggest single property portfolio to be offered for sale in the region for many years. It embraces an area where quality agricultural land has traditionally attracted a premium because of its rare availability." The sale has been launched during a period of consistently rising agricultural land values, he said.

Most of the land on offer is currently let on farming business tenancies and includes the Plas Bellin estate, overlooking the Dee Estuary, near Northop, which spans more than 300 acres of agricultural land and 18 acres of woodland.

British Coal has completed the sale of substantial property assets, including agricultural land and houses. Property sales completed or nearing completion have realised almost £20 million. The remaining non-operational assets will be offered for sale this year by way of a series of packages aimed at specific markets.

Sales of agricultural land to tenant farmers occupying British Coal properties in North Wales and throughout the country have been proceeding separately. Nationally, about 80 per cent of tenant farmers have opted to buy their properties. Unsold tenanted agricultural land will be assembled into packages and offered for tender in the months ahead.

Since the Government's privatisation of pits and opencast sites more than a year ago, British Coal has completed the sale of non-mining activities, ranging from fuel manufacturing and distribution companies to house sales, worth some £150 million.



Offa's Dyke, the ancient monument, a section of which is included in one package of land

UK factories lag behind rivals

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S competitive performance still lags well behind the USA's, a study of international productivity suggests today. The Government is planning to publish a new report on Britain's competitiveness later this year. In spite of the importance placed on the issue by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and improvements in the performance of some British companies, Whitehall officials acknowledge that the UK still has a "long tail" of underperforming companies that lag behind a group of world-class firms.

Looking at engineering plants in Britain, the Netherlands and the US, a new study published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research finds that average US labour productivity levels are some 25 per cent higher than in their Dutch counterparts and as much as two-thirds higher than in British plants.

Much of the USA's productivity advantage stems from greater economies of scale. US plants work with much larger average production batch sizes and suffer from less machinery downtime when production shifts change. Larger batch sizes also allow for higher machine-manning levels and greater use of automated production equipment.

The study also notes that higher US productivity is achieved with comparatively lower skill levels in America than in Europe.

Market fails to reflect progress in economy

GILTS EDGED

In 1996, as ever, gilts will provide a bit of a conundrum for investors, be they domestic or international. The short-term outlook is fairly positive; we expect a steady decline in interest rates and yields across the whole of the maturity spectrum, leaving the shape of the curve basically unaltered.

From the perspective of the first quarter, Daiwa's projections highlight the long end as the preferred maturity on a returns basis.

Projecting beyond that is fraught with risks, dependent, as it is, on the Tories' time in power and the market's response to what seems sure to be a change of government, be it this year or next. We will resist the political debate and its consequences for the market, confining comment to the likely risk premium on the worst fears of a Labour government.

One suspects that it is not inconceivable for ten-year gilt spreads over Bunds to widen out to 200bps, or even 225bps, on nervousness. However, let us not forget that the change to the Democrats in the US led to a fall in Treasury yields, not a rise.

But why should gilts provide a conundrum? Because the market is neither a true high yielder nor is it quite able to match the French market, in terms of the yield differential over Bunds, in spite of easily identifiable improvements in domestic determinants of the gilts market. The most visible change is that it is now much easier to judge the overall policy framework in spite of occasional disagreements. In principle, these disagreements are healthy and necessary, even though they can be temporarily counterproductive if on trivial differences in inflation projections. Policy is clearly far more transparent, certainly far more than in other markets that enjoy narrower risk premiums over Bunds. A funding schedule, a repo market and the proposed introduction of a strips market have been welcome additions improving general perception of the market. But still there is the wide risk premium.

It may just be that investors have not fully discounted the sea change in the UK's economic behaviour; policy transparency and inflation targets have prevented, and

> Inflation over the next two or three years will continue to be stable

will prevent, a stop/go economic cycle. The outlook, in not only 1996 but the medium term, is for GDP to grow between 2 to 3 per cent — that is, there should be no widening of the output gap. A steady economic cycle should also prevent volatility in retail price-setting. So, underlying inflation will remain comfortable. Not too much stress should be put on the underlying inflation rate being 2.8 per cent, and not 2.5. The point is that in the past two years inflation has been, and over the next two or three years will continue to be, stable in a 2 to 3.5 per cent range, matching "hard-core" European economies.

The fiscal position is also favourable, not only in comparison with markets enjoying a narrower risk premium over Bunds, but even some "hard-core" markets. The last Budget should have finally convinced doubters that transparency of monetary policy does constrain politically inspired tax cuts and spending increases. Even if it is assumed that there is a slight overshoot on the deficit, it will still be on a downward trajectory to 2 per cent, with a better debt/GDP ratio than that enjoyed by most European bond markets. Although there may well need to be fundamental re-evaluation of the benefits system, it is not as necessary as in France to cut the budget deficit. Also, the UK's pension system does not face the same long-term problems as many countries.

The conundrum for gilts: steady growth, good inflation, better fiscal backdrop than many in Europe and policy transparency with stop/go economic cycles a thing of the past — surely this is the recipe for spreads over Germany to fall to Danish or even French levels. Maybe what is needed to solve the conundrum is a currency level seen by international investors as either obviously cheap or in an era of stability, rather than on a continuous downward spiral. A mark rate of 2.05 could be the right value. But while we wait for the market to correctly price the UK risk premium, it is back to political intrigue and a range of 140bps to 225bps over Germany this year.

KATY PETERS AND SANJAY JOSHI
Daiwa Europe

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
15.50	AMCO Corp	109	...	5.2	12.0
0.94	Abacus Recruit	18	...	...	...
18.40	A de Grisogy	125	...	5.6	10.4
7.60	African Gold	9	+ 1	...	...
	Albemarale & Bd	13	– ½	...	...
12.80	Alpha Omikron	23	+ 3	...	...
38.80	Ann St Brewery	405	...	5.4	12.2
5.24	Ann St Cv Pf	885	...	9.0	...
71.00	Antonov	101	– 12	.	.
11.70	Ask Central	73	...	.	.
	Athelney Trust	60	...	...	...
4.37	Baris Hldgs	17	.	...	...
4.03	Belcanto	45	...	...	
	Bowness Leis	145	...	.	...
	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	
4.96	Brancote Hldgs	50	...	...	
36.80	Brockbank	315	+ 10	2.5	31.5
	CCI Hldgs	118	.	.	
	CCI Founder Shs	110	..	..	
2.66	Cafe Inns	95	.	2.6	7.8
8.52	Caledonian Tst	75	.	.	9.1
13.10	Card Clear	66	+ 5	.	
3.85	Cassidy Bros	70	– 2	5.4	9.9
1.87	Cavendish W F	43	+ 2	...	21.8
5.28	Celebrated Group	18	.	.	.
17.00	Celtic	6550	.	. .	
	Celtic Pl Shs	6550	.	...	
14.70	CI Comms(TV)	109	.	2.8	14.0
5.58	Chartwell Intl	62	.	.	.
12.10	ClubPartners	31	.	.	
12.20	Com de Frt Fin	510	.	.	
7.99	Consctor Tst	40	..	2.5	17.1
11.20	Country Gdns	63	.	2.4	13.0
2.66	Cntry Gdns Pf	73	.	9.1	.
35.60	Creos Intl	102	– 5	.	.
14.00	Crown Products	53	.	.	.
12.40	DBS Management	133	+ 23	4.1	7.4
	Dalkeith Inns	36	.	.	.
3.52	David Glass	66	.	5.5	9.4
46.50	Dawson Hldgs	1010	–140	3.8	.
3.21	Dean Corp	11	.	.	64.3
13.70	Dmtek	73	– 2	.	.
121.50	Electrophoresis Intl	188	– 12	.	.
5.52	Euro Sales Fn	125	.	.	.
	Fairlake	340	.	.	.
2.12	Fin Pubs	90	– 15	..	.
22.50	Firecrest	135	+ 7	.	56.7
6.12	Floral St	263	+ 10	0.5	.
4.52	Flomenco	192	+ 2	.	17.4
15.10	Formscan	143	– 18	1.7	13.6
4.65	Furlong Homes	93	..	3.2	5.0
26.50	Gander Hldgs	9	.	.	75.8
4.80	Greenhills	16	.	.	.
32.40	Gratton	145	..	3.4	13.1
4.12	Hanscom	41	.	.	.
59.00	Hickox Dod Inc	150	.	0.3	.
11.20	Indpl Radio	112	.	.	.
14.70	Inter Workings	88	.	.	.
21.10	Intl Greetings	503	.	.	.
3.71	Jasmin	91	+ 8	.	.
13.50	Jennings Bros	285	.	2.8	26.5
43.50	KS Biomedix	115	– 6	.	.
25.30	Lancashire Enterprises	140	+ 3	3.6	.
14.30	Lawrence	235	+ 2	0.8	.
52.70	Lawrie Group	2750	.	3.2	14.0
46.40	Le Riches Strs	280	– ½	6.9	27.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
	Lifehome As Ten	95	.	...	...
21.80	Lon Fiduciary	2¼	+ ¼	...	...
1.75	London Town	70	...	...	...
11.70	Lonen Grp	205	.	...	...
11.80	Manx & O'seas	20	– 3	...	...
42.70	Megalomedia	99	..	...	...
	Megalomedia Wts	89	..	...	...
5.57	Meltek	88	– 2	...	39.3
236.80	Memory Corp	400	– 25	.	.
6.04	Metrodome Films	21	.	.	.
12.40	Moorepay	163	+ 7	3.4	.
6.81	Mountcashel	0¾	...	..	...
19.60	MultiMedia	68	– 1	.	.
22.90	NWF Grp	305	+ 5	2.7	14.7
	Nash (Wm)	180	+ 5	4.6	.
8.48	Neill Clerk	335	.	2.2	16.2
5.71	Neilson Cobbold	208	– 3	2.3	.
	Norcity H	65	.	.	.
	Norhomes	63	– 3	.	.
8.59	Nthn Petim	75	.	..	.
0.13	Nthn Petim Wrts	8	.	.	.
	Nthmb Res Props	70	.	.	.
17.50	Nursing Home	113	..	0.6	.
9.90	Old English Pub	90	.	2.8	.
5.43	Omnicare	88	– 1	2.1	14.6
11.30	Omnimedia	63	– 2	.	.
13.30	Pacific Media	1¼	+ ¼	.	.
	Pacific Med Pl	43	– 2	..	.
8.44	Pan Andean Res	20½	+ 2	.	.
4.66	Park Ests(Liv)	195	.	.	.
100.20	Pet City	413	+ 3	.	.
26.20	Polymasc Pharms	131	– 13	.	.
3.62	Preston Nth E	400	.	..	.
1.07	Revelation Piccadilly	100	.	.	.
11.20	Riceman Incce	17	.	.	.
3.15	Ruchmere Wynne	3½	.	.	.
0.07	Rush Wyn Wrts	0¾	.	.	.
12.70	SCS Satellite	123	– 2	.	.
4.45	Scotswood Inds	20	.	6.2	69.3
	Scott Pride	38	.	.	.
13.00	Scruttons	270	.	6.0	11.0
	Sirkbern	3	.	.	.
56.60	SkyePharma	87½	– ½	.	.
124.00	Southern News	526	..	3.7	14.7
	Southern Vectis	51	– 2	.	.
60.90	Stamford Rook	348	+ 38	.	.
12.50	Surrey Fr Inns	125	.	1.8	14.7
48.40	TRACNER Netwk	915	+ 40	.	.
4.85	Tele Cred Eur	48	.	.	.
	Tele Cred Wrts	36	.	.	.
14.40	Toad	116	..	.	.
	Trinity Care	180	.	1.0	.
	Trinity Care Pf	165	.	.	.
198.50	Trocadero	47	.	.	.
	Univent	40	.	.	.
5.15	Utd Auctions	458	..	1.1	.
	VDC	605	.	.	.
35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	.	.	22.0
4.05	Viewmnn	135	.	.	.
	Vpcs	235	– 5	.	.
	Wedderburn Secs	13	+ 1	.	.
	Wedd Secs Wrnts	5	.	.	.
2.13	Westmount Engy	26	.	.	.
6.09	Wchester M Mid	55	+ 2	.	.
	Wynnstay Props	145	.	.	.
26.70	Zergo	290	.	.	.

SkyePharma gets off to a flying start

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

SKYEPHARMA, run by Ian Gowrie-Smith, founder and former head of Medeva, dominated last week's trading on the Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies (Philip Pangalos writes).

The company was formed after a reverse takeover by Black & Edgington, the business support services group. Shares started trading on AIM on Tuesday at 7p, giving a 3p premium after a rights issue at 4p, and ended the week at 8½p. David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, said SkyePharma had attracted the biggest turnover so far on AIM.

Mr Gowrie-Smith is expected to use the company as a vehicle to make acquisitions in the pharmaceutical market.

Elsewhere, Card Clear, the credit card fraud protection company, was in demand after signing a deal to install its Hot Card Broadcast system in Mobil's petrol retail outlets throughout the UK.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from the 1995 Macallan International Pairs, which was won by Meckstroth and Rodwell. Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson, Britain's leading pair, are previous winners of the event. Both pairs will be playing in the 1996 event.

Dealer North — **Imp's** — **game all**

	♠KQJ654 ♥K84 ♦Q103 ♣Q	
♠108 ♥AQ1093 ♦J98 ♣A107	N W E S	♠97 ♥75 ♦7652 ♣KJ853
	♠A32 ♥J62 ♦AK4 ♣9642	

N	E	S	W
Forrester	Rodwell	Robson	Meckstroth
1 S	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 S	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 S	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: ten of hearts.

Meckstroth led the ten of hearts against 3NT. Robson put up the king of hearts. That was good play. It's no good playing low on the heart hoping West has led from the queen - if East gets in he will be bound to switch to clubs. Robson now took the first ten tricks. To beat the contract Meckstroth had to lead one of his aces, and then find the club continuation. David Burn, the Vugraph commentator, explained : "Meckstroth has little experience of leading against such auctions. He stopped playing bridge in vicarages and church halls some time ago."

Although the auction does look like the sort of thing you see in certain husband and wife partnerships (in my case the wife would be South), it had a logical basis. Robson's 1NT was forcing and Two Spades showed a minimum hand with good spades. 2NT showed a balanced 11 - 12 points, and Three Spades was sign-off. Now Robson, with excellent spade support, upgraded his hand. As it happens, Four Spades is the best contract, because there is no duplication in clubs - declarer can lead up to the king of hearts, and if that loses, continue by leading towards the jack of hearts.

The 1996 Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship will be played at The White House Hotel, Regent's Park, London on January 24th, 25th and 26th. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Information: 0181-878 5844.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Spanish Torture

The Ruy Lopez opening is one of White's most successful in international chess. Named after the 16th century Spanish priest Ruy Lopez, this line is often known as the Spanish torture. British grandmaster Michael Adams is a particular exponent of its virtues and in the tournament at Groningen he used it to terminate grandmaster Gata Kamsky's dreams of sharing first prize with Anatoly Karpov.

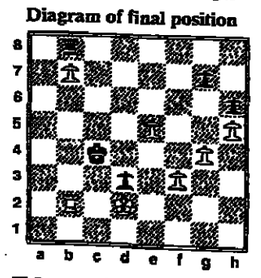
In spite of fierce resistance, Adams succeeded in capitalising on his extra pawn in the endgame.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Gata Kamsky
Groningen, December 1995

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	d3	d6
9	a3	Na5
10	Ba2	c5
11	Nc3	Nc6
12	Nd5	a5
13	a4	b4
14	c3	Rb8
15	h3	Bd7
16	Nxe7+	Qxe7
17	Bg5	h6
18	Bh4	Rfc8
19	d4	cxd4
20	cxd4	Nbd4
21	Nxd4	exd4
22	Bg3	Be6
23	Bxe6	Qxe6
24	Qxd4	Rc4
25	Qxd8	Rbc8
26	Qxe6	fxe6
27	f3	Rc2
28	Rab1	Rd8
29	Rec1	b3
30	Be1	Nh5
31	Kf1	Rb8
32	Rd1	Nf4
33	Rd2	e5
34	Rbd1	Kh7
35	h4	Rb4
36	g3	Ne6
37	Rd8	Rd4
38	Bc3	Rxd1+
39	Rxd1	Nd4
40	Rd3	Rc1+
41	Kf2	Ra1
42	Bxa5	Rxa4
43	Bc3	Rc4
44	Ke3	Nc2+
45	Ke2	Nd4+
46	Bxd4	exd4
47	Rxb3	Rc1
48	h5	Kg8
49	g4	Kf7
50	Kd3	Rd1+
51	Kc4	Ka6
52	Rd3	Rb1
53	b4	Ke5
54	b5	Rc1+
55	Kb4	Rb1+
56	Rb3	Rc1
57	b6	Kd6
59	Ka3	Rc8
59	b7	Rb8
60	Kb2	Kc5
61	Kc2	Kc4
62	Rb1	d3+
63	Kd2	Kd4
64	Rb2	Kc4
65	a5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MOLA
a. A female tooth
b. A gaudy blouse
c. A stick-on beauty spot

HAMBO
a. A Swedish folk dance
b. An aggressive pig
c. An Italian pork-pie

INKY-PINKY
a. A small beer
b. Pinky and Perky's mother
c. Chinese calligraphy

JUVIA
a. A young offender
b. A Brazil nut
c. A Greek island

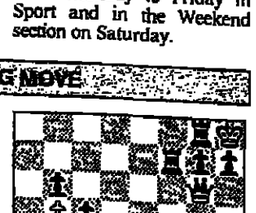
Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Spraggett — Speelman, Hastings Premier 1989. Here White played 1 Nxg3?, overlooking the chance for a brilliant finish. Can you see an alternative move which would have administered a brilliant coup de grace?

Solution on page 38



LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL SOCIETY
Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL COURT OF GOVERNORS of the Corporation will be held at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3 at 3.15pm on Tuesday 11th June 1996, to receive the Annual Report of the Committee of Management, to elect Officers for the ensuing year and to transact such other business as may be necessary.
Notice is also given that COURTS OF GOVERNORS, if required will be held at 2.25pm on the following dates in 1996: Tuesday 16th January at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, Wednesday 17th April at Trinity House, Tower Hill, EC3; Tuesday 16th July at the Chamber of Shipping, Carthusian Street, EC1; Wednesday 16th October at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.
29 King William Walk
Greenwich, SE10 9HX
Cristina O'Halloran
General Secretary

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Foundation of Richard Platt, Aldenham, Hertfordshire
Scheme including appointment of Trustees Reference
BH-31055/7001 CDE/dru
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Brewers' Hall, Aldermanbury Square London EC2V 7HR, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
NO. 007736 OF 1995
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
EVERSHEDS LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 20th day of December 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above named company from £70,006 to £70,000 and for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr. Register Bulley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2B 2LL on the 24th day of January 1996.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital should appear at the time of Hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition shall be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 11th day of January 1996
EVERSHEDS Tel: 0115 936 8000
14 Fletcher Gate, Nottingham NG1 2FX
Ref: 520
Solicitors for the above-named Company

JEFFERIES AND COMPANY LIMITED
Company No: 1691177
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above Company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith, KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 23 February 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned. Note: The Company is able to pay all known creditors in full.
Dated 5th January 1996
R Smith - Liquidator

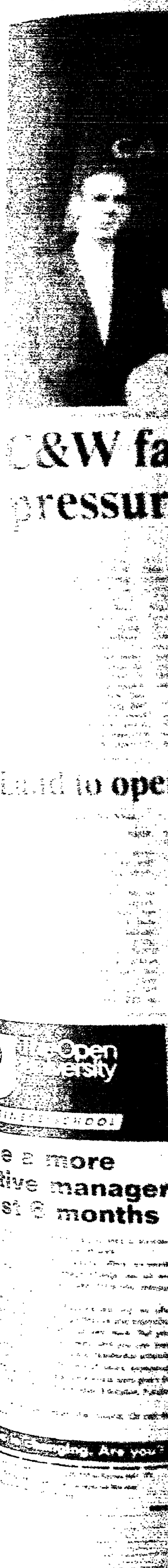
STEPQUAY LIMITED
Company No: 2807406
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above Company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith, KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 9th February 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned. Note: The Company is able to pay all known creditors in full.
Dated 21st December 1995
R Smith - Liquidator

FUTON CENTRE (LONDON) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace 32nd Floor, London, W2 6LF on 23rd January 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 99 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 32nd Floor, London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 8th January 1996.
Christopher Hurtwitz, Director

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
CAROUSEL (PARTY PLAN) LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: Unit 16 and Unit 11, Nonsuch Indust rial Estate, Kiln Lane, Epsom Surrey KT17 1ER
Company Number 2784092
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 3 January 1996 James Robert Drummond Smith was appointed liquidator of the above named company 'creditors' voluntary winding up'.
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference CARL/NJT
Touche Ross & Co
65 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
PH10 1BQ

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827

هكذا من الأصل



هكذا من الأصل

De Beers mission to Moscow

De Beers top managers will fly to Moscow today for more talks with Russian officials regarding a new diamond sales contract. Hopes that after months of negotiations a positive outcome is imminent helped propel De Beers shares to a 17-month high on the Johannesburg stock exchange last week.

Under the current deal, Russia sells 95 per cent of its uncut gems through the De Beers Central Selling Organisation in London.

Executives in spotlight

The position of two executives at Robert Fleming, the investment bank, is in the spotlight after continued investigations by the Stock Exchange into heavy trading in shares of Caradon, the building products company, last September before the release of its half-year figures.

Fidelity talks

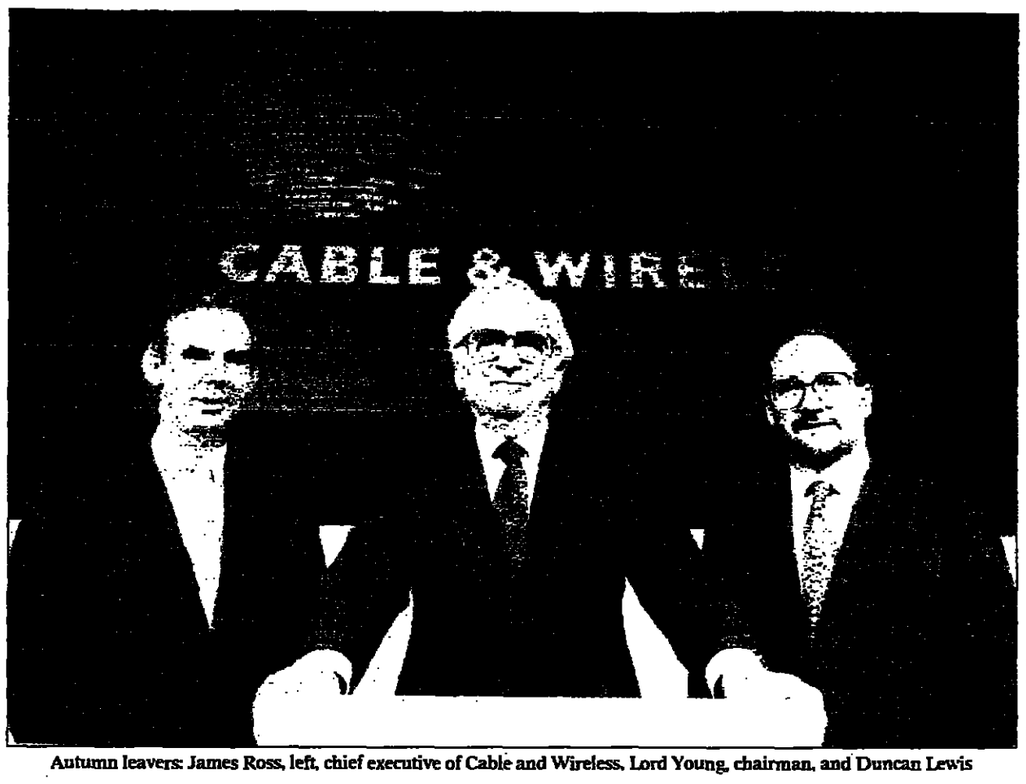
Fidelity Brokerage will today enter into exclusive negotiations with Hambros Bank until March 1 over the proposed acquisition of Hambro Clearing's futures, options and bond brokerage business.

Taking parts

Independent Parts Group (IPG), the manufacturer and distributor of car replacement parts, has won a major contract from a European carmaker, believed to be GM Motors, to supply exhaust systems.

Pension boost

Standard Life is to launch a Flexible Pension Plan, with a minimum purchase price of £100,000, to enable investors to supplement their income from other sources such as a company pension.



Autumn leavers: James Ross, left, chief executive of Cable and Wireless, Lord Young, chairman, and Duncan Lewis

C&W faces shareholder pressure over new chief

By Eric Reguly

CABLE and Wireless will come under pressure from shareholders today to reveal how much progress it has made in the search for a replacement for James Ross, the chief executive who was ousted in November along with Lord Young of Graffham, the executive chairman.

Today's extraordinary meeting was called to change the articles of incorporation to allow Rod Olsen, the finance director who is a New Zealander, to become acting chief executive until a replacement is found. Under the current articles, the chief executive must be a British citizen if there is no executive chairman. Lord Young has been replaced with a non-executive chairman.

C&W has hired Russell Reynolds, the head-hunting consultancy, to produce a shortlist of candidates for the chief executive post. One of them is thought to be Duncan Lewis, the former chief executive of Mercury Communications, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W.

The choice was narrowed when British Telecom — Britain's only other quoted, fixed-wire telecom company — hired Sir Peter Bonfield, former head of ICL, the British computer group owned by Japan's Fujitsu Ltd, as chief executive in November. Michael Hepher, former managing director of British Telecom, who left the group at the same time, swiftly ruled himself out of the C&W job.

Mr Lewis left Mercury Communications in the autumn, less than a year after announcing Mercury's restructuring, but has broad backing from institutions. C&W has said it expects to have a new chief in place by the late spring.

C&W may also reveal at today's meeting how much compensation it has agreed to pay Lord Young, who shortly before his departure had agreed to remain as chairman until early 1997.

☐ IBCA, the European credit-rating agency, has downgraded C&W's long-term rating from A+ to A. The short-term A1 rating is unchanged. It reflects continuing concerns over the future of activities in Hong Kong when the colony is handed over by Britain to China, given that Hongkong Telecom provides the bulk of group operating profits.

IBCA gave a warning that high levels of capital expenditure, in excess of cashflows, continue to be made.

Vestey sells insurance business to reduce debt

By Robert Miller

VESTEY, the shipping to food services and farming group headed by Lord Vestey and his cousin Edmund Vestey, will today further reduce its debt mountain and move nearer to a possible stock market flotation in the year 2000 with the disposal of the final company in its insurance portfolio.

With the sale of RF Kershaw, an independent Lloyd's Members Agents, to a management buyout, Vestey has more than halved its debt from £145 million in January 1995 to £65 million. Other insurance disposals include Albion, the general insurer, to Sterling and Robert Barrow, a non-trading insurance broker.

In the early 1990s, Vestey had debts of £424 million. However, the Vestey empire, once regarded as one of the UK's most powerful private companies, has undergone a radical cost-cutting and restructuring in recent years.

Last year, Union International, part of the Vestey combine which owned brand names such as Dewhurst, the high street butchers' chain, and British Beef, was finally put into receivership. Debt levels, however, had been dramatically reduced by Terry Robinson, a former director of Lonrho, who became chief executive of Union in 1992 before bowing out last year.

Two years ago, Sir John Collins, former chairman of Shell UK, joined Vestey as chief executive and Robert Cooper was subsequently recruited from Robert Fleming as finance director.

An over-exposure to the property sector in the early 1990s brought the group perilously close to financial disaster. Commenting on the latest disposal, Mr Cooper said: "The sale of RF Kershaw completes the group's disposal programme of financial services companies. Our activities are now concentrated on the shipping, food services and farming sectors."

Keeping it in the family

IF Sir Rocco Forte wonders how — and where — Granada gathered some of its information about Forte before launching its hostile bid, he could ask close to home.

A book by Jonathan Pryor, audit partner at Smith & Williamson, the chartered accountant, has recently been published which is a mine of information for advisers to, and in, the hotel industry.

The Client and Adviser Guide: Hotels (Tolley's £34.95) even has a section on valuation of hotels, and another on acquisition. And who wrote the preface that enthuses about the "database of relevant accounting, property, tax and legal information"? Why, Mrs Olga Polizzi, managing director of Forte's building and design division, and Sir Rocco's sister.

Boring? Not us

IF THE Woolwich places little, if any, business the way of stockbroker Panmure Gordon in the weeks ahead, here's why. Peter Robinson, Woolwich's chief executive, was not impressed to learn that Tim Clarke, Panmure's banking analyst, had described the Woolwich as "boring". Robinson, defending his patch, insists the Woolwich has all sorts of exciting and profitable continental operations. Clarke is unrepentant. "If the most dramatic thing they have to say about their business is that it is diversified, then that's hardly going to get anyone to buy shares."

Home truths

A PERIOD of "gardening leave" is not all sunshine and sand, as Andrew Speak, who resigned last November as a director of corporate finance at Samuel Montagu, will testify. Speak joins Charterhouse Bank next month. His wife, Helen Pernelet, took maternity leave from BZW, also in November, since when both have been "at home". "There's been no three months' skiing leave for us. I've been reading pamphlets on pushchairs and attending ante-natal classes," Speak sighs.

Wine and . . .

RACING to market is Rystone Wines, of which Derby winning trainer David O'Brien, son of Irish horse racing legend Vincent, is a director. The vineyard-owning and wine-producing company was set up in 1993 by ex-Majestic founder Esme Johnstone and Australian-trained winemaker Hugh Ryman. Rystone will raise the equivalent of £2.4 million through brokers Williams de Broe before an eventual listing on the AIM.

. . . Cleese

TODAY, the pathfinder for Stock Exchange-bound MediaKey, the publishing and media group seeking to raise £20 million, is issued. Also today, the institutional roadshow kicks off. The document will be serious minded, with detail of MediaKey's plans to acquire Video Arts Group. The roadshow, by contrast, could be a barrel of laughs. Fund managers are promised snippets from comedy actor John Cleese, co-founder of Video Arts, which he gathered while researching *Fawlty Towers*. When Cleese asked a porter at The Savoy what job he least liked, the reply was "taking out the stiffs".

COLIN CAMPBELL

Party Land to open in UK

By Sarah Bagnall

PARTY LAND, America's largest supplier of party paraphernalia, plans to open 60 stores in the United Kingdom over the next five years.

The enterprise, which is based in Philadelphia and is run as a franchise chain, has 107 stores worldwide with a total annual turnover of $40 million.

John Barry, vice-president in charge of Party Land's franchising, said: "Britain is an attractive market for us. There are no large party companies here, mainly mom and pop shops. What we will bring is a party supply emporium."

Ten of the planned stores will be in central London, with others in places such as Brighton and Birmingham.

Party Land, which has already opened in Singapore, Israel and Puerto Rico, supplies a wide range of party products such as balloons, streamers, plates and invitations. Balloons — of which it offers more than 300 varieties — are the best-seller and account for 25 per cent of sales.

On average, American families spend about $20 per shopping trip and hold eight parties a year.

Mr Barry said: "A conservative estimate is that we hope to open up to ten stores in the UK this year. The target date for the first store opening is June."

The stores will be about 3,000 sq ft, the franchise cost of which will be $149,000. The franchisees will be flown to Philadelphia for a week-long course at Party Land University, which includes training in a range of skills, such as making balloon arches and balloon columns, and in-store experience.

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	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.66	15.16
Belgium Fr	48.76	44.46
Canada $	2.207	2.047
Cyprus Cyp£	0.740	0.685
Denmark Kr	9.22	8.42
Finland Mkk	7.30	6.65
France Fr	8.05	7.40
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.58	11.56
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2100	4.5600
Italy Lira	2544.00	2389.00
Japan Yen	176.20	160.20
Malta	0.589	0.534
Netherlds Gld	2.648	2.416
New Zealand $	2.48	2.26
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
S Africa Rd	rel.	5.35
Spain Pta	194.50	181.50
Sweden Kr	10.77	9.97
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	87579.0
USA $	1.639	1.509

Rates for small denomination notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5472 (-0.0058)
German mark
2.2291 (-0.0035)
Exchange index
83.3 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2720.9 (-16.3)
FT-SE 100
3657.3 (-47.2)
New York Dow Jones
5061.12 (-120.31)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
20287.42 (-381.61)

NOTICE TO HALIFAX INVESTORS

	UK RATES				NON-RESIDENT RATEST		NON-PERSONAL RATES			
	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %
SPECIAL RESERVE BOND*	6.30	-	4.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HALIFAX TESSA 2* Standard rate	5.90	-	-	-	5.90	-	-	-	-	-
Matured TESSA*	5.90	-	4.43	-	5.90	-	-	-	-	-
BONUS GOLD* (Including Bonus)										
£100,000+	6.05	-	4.54	-	5.90	-	5.65	-	4.24	-
£50,000+	5.80	-	4.35	-	5.65	-	5.50	-	4.13	-
£25,000+	5.55	-	4.16	-	5.40	-	5.25	-	3.94	-
£10,000+	5.30	-	3.98	-	5.15	-	5.10	-	3.83	-
Monthly Income Option (Including Bonus)										
£100,000+	5.90	6.05	4.43	4.51	5.76	5.90	5.52	5.65	4.14	4.21
£50,000+	5.66	5.80	4.25	4.32	5.52	5.65	5.38	5.50	4.04	4.10
£25,000+	5.43	5.55	4.07	4.14	5.28	5.40	5.14	5.25	3.86	3.92
£10,000+	5.19	5.30	3.89	3.96	5.04	5.15	5.00	5.10	3.75	3.81
SOLID GOLD*										
£50,000+	5.20	-	3.90	-	5.05	-	5.00	-	3.75	-
£25,000+	4.95	-	3.71	-	4.80	-	4.75	-	3.56	-
£10,000+	4.45	-	3.34	-	4.30	-	4.45	-	3.34	-
£5,000+	3.70	-	2.78	-	3.55	-	3.60	-	2.70	-
£500+	3.45	-	2.59	-	3.30	-	3.30	-	2.48	-
Monthly Income Option										
£50,000+	5.08	5.20	3.81	3.88	4.94	5.05	4.89	5.00	3.67	3.73
£25,000+	4.84	4.95	3.63	3.69	4.70	4.80	4.65	4.75	3.49	3.54
£10,000+	4.36	4.45	3.27	3.32	4.22	4.30	4.36	4.45	3.27	3.32
£5,000+	3.64	3.70	2.73	2.76	3.49	3.55	3.54	3.60	2.66	2.69
£500+	3.40	3.45	2.55	2.58	3.25	3.30	3.25	3.30	2.44	2.47
LIQUID GOLD*										
£25,000+	4.15	-	3.11	-	4.00	-	3.90	-	2.93	-
£10,000+	3.75	-	2.81	-	3.60	-	3.60	-	2.70	-
£5,000+	3.25	-	2.44	-	3.10	-	3.05	-	2.29	-
£2,500+	3.10	-	2.33	-	2.95	-	2.85	-	2.14	-
£500+	2.85	-	2.14	-	2.70	-	2.60	-	1.95	-
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT										
£50,000+	5.25	5.35	3.94	4.00	5.25	5.35	4.65	4.73	3.49	3.53
£25,000+	4.95	5.04	3.71	3.77	4.95	5.04	4.20	4.27	3.15	3.19
£10,000+	4.60	4.68	3.45	3.49	4.60	4.68	3.95	4.01	2.96	3.00
£5,000+	3.90	3.96	2.93	2.96	3.90	3.96	3.65	3.70	2.74	2.77
YOUNG SAVERS‡	3.40	3.43	2.55	2.57	3.40	3.43	-	-	-	-
MAXIM										
£2,000+	1.25	1.26	0.94	0.94	-	-	-	-	-	-
£50+	0.65	0.65	0.49	0.49	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARDCASH										
£50+	0.65	0.65	0.49	0.49	-	-	-	-	-	-
MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT*										
£10,000+	4.00	-	3.00	-	4.00	-	4.00	-	3.00	-
£2,000+	3.40	-	2.55	-	3.40	-	3.40	-	2.55	-
Monthly Income										
£10,000+	3.93	-	2.95	-	3.93	-	3.93	-	2.95	-
£2,000+	3.35	-	2.51	-	3.35	-	3.35	-	2.51	-
TREASURER'S ACCOUNT*										
£2,500+	4.85	-	3.64	-	-	-	4.85	-	3.64	-
£500+	4.30	-	3.23	-	-	-	4.30	-	3.23	-
£1+	1.35	-	1.01	-	-	-	1.35	-	1.01	-
CLOSED ISSUES										
TESSA Gold*	6.40	-	-	-	6.40	-	-	-	-	-
Including maturity bonus	6.52	-	-	-	6.52	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax TESSA*	5.90	-	-	-	5.90	-	-	-	-	-
Including maturity bonus	6.70	-	-	-	6.70	-	-	-	-	-
Paid-Up Share	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75
Deposit £500+	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89	2.50	2.52	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89
£1+	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75
Instant Xtra										
£10,000+	3.35	-	2.51	-	3.35	-	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	2.85	-	2.14	-	2.85	-	-	-	-	-
£2,000+	2.60	-	1.95	-	2.60	-	-	-	-	-
£500+	2.10	-	1.58	-	2.10	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Savings £500+	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89	2.50	2.52	-	-	-	-
£1+	1.10	1.10	0.83	0.83	1.10	1.10	-	-	-	-
7 Day Xtra £200+	1.95	1.96	1.46	1.47	1.95	1.96	-	-	-	-
£50+	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	-	-	-	-
28 Day Xtra £500+	1.75	1.76	1.31	1.31	1.75	1.76	-	-	-	-
£50+	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	-	-	-	-
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)	3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.02	-	-	-	-
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89	2.50	2.52	-	-	-	-
5 Year Term Share	3.00	3.02	2.25	2.26	3.00	3.02	-	-	-	-
Subscription Share	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89	2.50	2.52	-	-	-	-
Matured Subscription Share	2.50	2.52	1.88	1.89	2.50	2.52	-	-	-	-

CHANGES TO RATES

Halifax Building Society announces new rates for certain investors and banking customers from 16th January 1996.

Please note that there is no change to the rates for TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA and Halifax TESSA 2.

CLOSED ISSUES. If your account is a closed issue (one which is no longer available to new customers) you may close it without losing any interest if you transfer the money into any Halifax account. This does not apply to TESSA Gold and Halifax TESSA.

*The rates shown apply to both the deposit and share account versions of these products.

POINTS TO NOTE. Interest will be paid net after basic rate income tax (currently 25%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form or made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume basic rate income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. ‡Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to investors and banking customers who appear in our records as being under 21 or have Student Maxim. If your account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21 (or, if your account is a Maxim account, you appear in our records as being under 21 or a student). Compounded annual rates (C.A.R.) apply when full interest remains in your account. †The non-resident rates of interest are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. Bonus Gold and Solid Gold non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities and trusts) are no longer available to new customers. Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2 and Bonus Gold bonuses, are available from any branch.

CHANGES TO HALIFAX TESSA 2

From 25th January 1996, the following change to the 'special conditions' of Halifax TESSA 2 accounts will take place. The maturity bonus payable on the amount in the account at the end of the five year term (apart from any interest or bonuses that have been added) will be changed from a variable 2.5% to a fixed 2.5%.

Trinity Road, Halifax

HALIFAX

15th January 1996

Riding Dracula's gravy train with Dr van Blair



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Stakeholding is a well-worn but dangerously woolly piece of jargon. It reminds us that many people have an interest in decisions over which they have no say, as customers, users, suppliers, residents, employees or just members of a community. By implication, they should have some formal say, and that usually means those who control the purse strings should have less. But last week, Tony Blair elevated "the stakeholder society" to a slogan for a big idea and the world and his dog rushed to put their own gloss on what it should mean.

Mr Blair has been cast as Dr van Helsing, driven to destroy the vampire of individualism, no doubt with the help of his stout-hearted companion Jonathan Harker, *aka* the Labour Party. But stakeholding, like "empowerment", could mean just the opposite.

Tories pointed out that the right to buy council houses gave millions a direct stake in the nation's wealth (and loss of wealth), expanding the longer-term boost to home ownership from tax incentives. Home ownership is power, once you have paid off the mortgage. Privatisation has created millions more shareholders with a direct financial stake in the success of top domestic enterprises. The stake did not, however, bring much influence.

Alternatively, Mr Blair is a repackaged Peronist, trying to restore 1970s' corporatism, put trade unions back in the driving seat and pander to all manner of frustrated, politically correct, pressure groups. This is not just a Tory jibe. One trade union MP, scenting the gravy, demanded: "Make mine a sirloin."

From an altogether different part of the party, Frank Field argued in *The Times* that Dr van Blair's vision was more about driving a stake into the heart of centralised state welfare. Those dispossessed from the 1980s, and the rest of us, would gain direct stakes in education and training via a contributory voucher, in health by electing hospital boards.

Individuals would be compelled to save for second pensions, social insurance, and possibly for house deposits and retraining, with contributions topped up by taxpayers as required. Instead of disappearing into the Exchequer, however, these savings would be run by modest "stakeholders organisations, such as mutual aid funds", that members own and can also run if they wish.

An article penned by the late Sir Keith Joseph in 1994, but published in *The Daily Telegraph* on the same day, reaches an uncannily similar conclusion. "My own favourite strategy to give every home a stake in the economy," he wrote, "is to allow friendly societies to recover much of the role they have relinquished over this century." Sir Keith saw Mr Field as the Tories' most dangerous opponent. If stakeholding means anything like this, Dr van Blair truly would be the heir building on the foundations of Thatcherism.

History is still marching the other way. Building societies and mutual insurance companies use profits to improve their terms or expand services. They are "owned" and, in theory, can be run by savers. But most did not feel stakeholders in the Halifax or the Norwich Union until these joined the rush to become PLCs, promising cash windfalls today in exchange for City control tomorrow. Only a couple of top trade unions have tip-toed towards Sir Keith's vision of friendly societies. Evidently, freemasons should prepare for a heady new era of expansion.

Mr Blair himself offers less meat. Welfare and training reforms would offer the dispossessed ways into the income-earning economy. Education would be better for low achievers. More definitely, he wants to "shift the emphasis away from companies being a mere vehicle for the capital market to being a community or partnership in which each employee had a stake". But how?

Labour's Bennite left had a more inspiring vision. They wanted to engineer "an irreversible shift in wealth and power towards working people". Crucially, however, this slogan had two alternative endings. One was "and their families". The other was "and their representatives". Fifteen years on, the divide between the individual or collective route is as vital, and the direction in which Dr van Blair would plunge the stake is as ambiguous.

Oddly, privatised utilities were once a successful model of a collective stakeholder approach. In water, for instance, the National Rivers Authority stood for the environment, Ofwat batted for customers on prices and investment, while peer group competition looked after investors. Such tensions improved efficiency and service, delivered good financial returns and, in most industries, lower prices. The balance broke down only because ideologues gave more weight to market forces. Competition took priority over British Gas and BT. Expiry of takeover protection shifted power over electricity and water to the City.

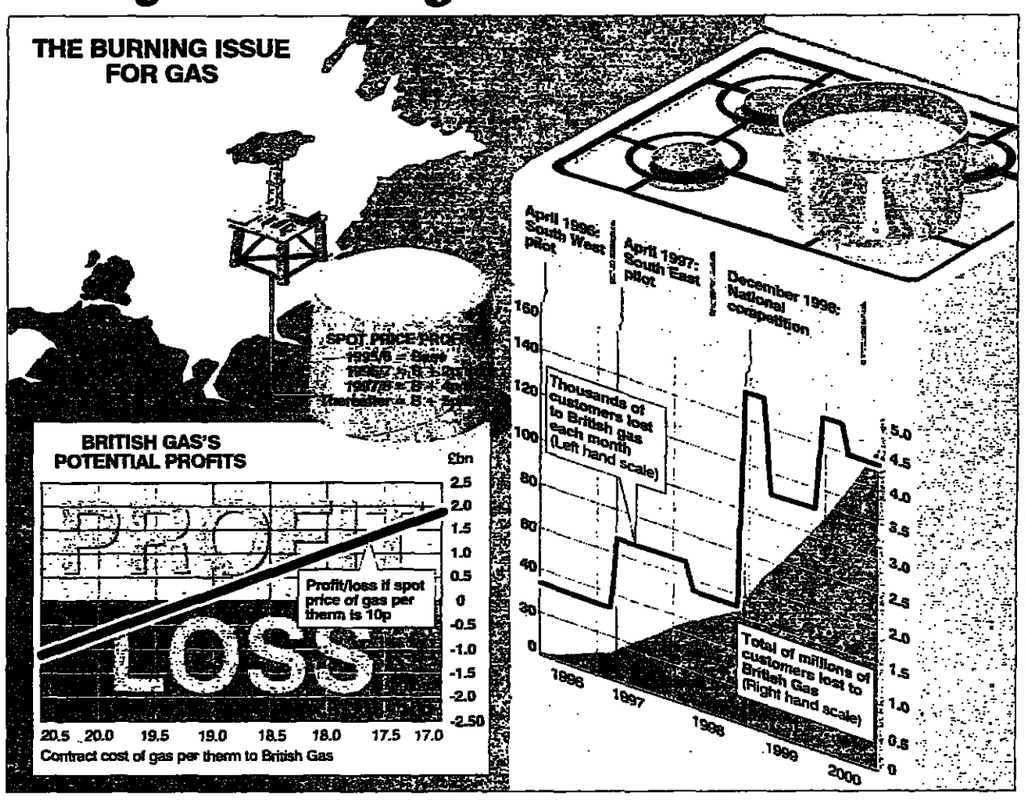
Employees were left out of the collective balance. Individuals had a stake in financial success as investors, but many lost jobs faster than they might, squeezed between other stakeholders — a pattern rail may repeat. Consultative councils with access to regulators who had to nod to their interest would have helped. But these were monopolies.

In competitive industry, consultative councils can improve morale, company performance and status, itself an important stake. They cannot stop companies being "a mere vehicle for capital markets" unless Labour imposes two-tier boards or gives protection from takeovers that Brussels accepts.

For employees, the individual route looks sounder, not least via stronger tax incentives for egalitarian share ownership schemes. Other would-be stakeholders are making their mark through the fast-growing free market in public pressure on companies and City investors. If you cannot nail the vampires, join them.

Is the gas levy fuss just hot air?

British Gas's £1.14bn "bubble" liability warrants closer scrutiny, **Ross Tieman** argues



The Government is contemplating taking powers to impose a levy on Britain's 18 million household gas users. A clause may be written into the licences of oil and gas companies preparing to supply gas to consumers that will enable the Department of Trade and Industry to require them to make an additional charge over and above the cost of gas, transport, and their profit.

The purpose of this cash is to bail out British Gas, as a last resort, from liabilities estimated at £1.14 billion. If the full "cost" was passed on, gas users could face an average additional charge of £63.33 on their gas bill.

But is such a levy necessary? Does British Gas really have a problem with contracts to buy gas it will no longer need in a competitive regime? Or have the potential problems been "over-emphasised" in an effort to bounce North Sea producers into price cuts.

An analysis by an economist employed by one of the leading North Sea oil and gas companies, made available to *The Times*, suggests that far from being a liability that threatens the viability of British Gas, these contracts could yet prove to be a valuable asset. If that is the case, surely these levy powers are unnecessary and, for consumers, undesirable?

When British Gas was offered for sale in December 1986, its statutory monopoly made it the only available supplier to British homes and businesses. But it also had obligations, written into its licence to operate, to maintain supplies no matter how cold the weather became, or how much household consumption soared in response.

British Gas says that, to meet those obligations, "we entered into many agreements for the purchase of gas on the basis of anticipated minimum annual contract quantities. If demand falls below these minimums we are required to pay for the gas whether it is taken or not. These 'take or pay' contracts were appropriate, and indeed necessary, to meet our legal obligations under our licence to supply."

Some of these contracts, totalling £40 billion, extend for decades. But British Gas has already lost most of the commercial and industrial market as it has been opened gradually to competition by regulatory changes. In just 17 days' time, on February 1, it will lose its monopoly over the supply of gas to households, which account for around half of all gas used in the United Kingdom.

On April 1, or certainly by June, if the timetable is delayed, Sweb Gas, Total, Egas, Norweb Gas, Southern & Philips, Calor and a host of other rivals will start to supply customers in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset as 500,000 homes are opened to competition. In April 1997, competition will be extended to a further one million homes in southern England and nationwide by January 1, 1999.

Since rivals are promising cuts of up to 15 per cent in the price of gas, many householders are expected to switch away from British Gas. The amount of fuel needed by Gas to supply its remaining customers will fall, although how fast remains unclear.

British Gas, however, will continue to be obliged, under its existing contracts, either to take gas from its existing suppliers, or to pay for it anyway, even if it has no buyers. This would not matter if Gas could simply sell on its surplus gas to its rivals, whose need for gas will be rising. But it cannot. That is because the spot price of gas has fallen to just 10p a therm, less than half the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (Wacog) which British Gas pays producers under its "take-or-pay" contracts. And since they will not buy fuel at twice its market price, British Gas faces an obligation to carry on paying for fuel it probably will not need.

The scale of liabilities has not been confirmed, but a figure of £1 billion is not denied. Last year, the company says, it paid £520 million to producers who made available gas it could not sell.

Clare Spottiswoode, head of Ofgas, the industry's regulator, has said the liabilities could threaten the viability of British Gas. Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, has offered Department of Trade and Industry officials to help to renegotiate lower prices into contracts between British Gas and its suppliers. Now, the DTI has said that the Gas Shippers Licence, being drafted by the DTI for suppliers in the new competitive household market, will contain a special condition that will empower the DTI to impose a levy on domestic consumers.

According to the analysis supplied to *The Times*, estimates of British Gas's liability fail to take into account several key factors.

In the absence of contract details from British Gas, the computer model relies upon several key, but well-informed assumptions. Its main aim is to subtract the likely revenue that accrues to British Gas from gas sales from the "take-or-pay" cost stream.

It assumes, for example, that British Gas continues to be allowed a domestic gas cost of 21p, and that it sells fuel in the industrial and commercial markets at the spot price, so these sales have no impact on the value of gas in its portfolio. And inevitably, it makes assumptions about the rate at which British Gas loses customers in the domestic market to its rivals. As the chart shows, the model assumes that full domestic competition is introduced in December 1998, the last moment allowed under the legislation, rather than April, as widely assumed. Under these assumptions, by the year 2,000, British Gas has lost 4.5 million domestic customers, a quarter of the total.

But the forecast, running to the year 2000, is also based upon a well-founded expectation that the price of spot gas will not stay at such low levels for long. The present glut is expected to reduce fast as new gas-fired power plants, which have been delayed, come on stream. That is expected to lift the spot price from 10p in 1995-96, to 12p in 1996-97, and 14p in 1997-98. In 1998, a new pipeline will be completed, enabling surplus gas from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf to be sold into Europe. The UK spot price will therefore stabilise at the European level: 15p per therm.

That leaves British Gas with a 5.5p per therm gap. One possible solution is that favoured by British Gas and the Government: the renegotiation of contracts with suppliers.

According to oil producers, British Gas can do a lot to help itself. One of its biggest sources of gas is the huge, mature South Morecambe field, from which it supplies itself with gas at a price believed to be about 28p per therm. Another costly source is British Gas's new North Morecambe field, contracted at an estimated 18p per therm. According to the computer model, if these contracts were renegotiated to 15p per therm, British Gas could reduce its weighted average cost of gas to about 17p per therm.

Taken together with the other assumptions, and run through the computer model, this suggests that far from being a liability, these contracts could actually be an asset worth £1.81 billion.

This analysis does not suit British Gas, for obvious reasons. The company would probably argue that fixed demand is lower than assumed, adding perhaps £1 billion to the loss over the five-year period. And it would insist that cutting prices from the Morecambe fields would cut the average weighted cost of gas by little more than one penny a therm.

But for British Gas, the main difficulty with the "Morecambe solution" is the belief that it would slash £3 billion of revenues from the unregulated Exploration and Production arm, and add £2 billion to the regulated British Gas Supply business.

In such circumstances, executives believe, British Gas would find the 21p price of gas to households allowed by Ofgas cut back sharply. But this is a two-edged sword. With a lower price, British Gas would lose customers to its rivals more slowly...

Electricity customers already pay a levy of 10p in the pound on their bills to fund the disposal of redundant nuclear power stations. Why should consumers, rather than taxpayers in general, pick up the tab for government-inspired changes in the circumstances of industries supplying essential services? Especially if, with a fair wind and some clever footwork, British Gas can turn a liability of £1.14 billion into an asset worth £1.81 billion?

Powers to impose a consumer levy should not be taken lightly, especially if the main beneficiaries are the barons of the oil and gas industry. If a levy becomes necessary, British Gas, and the Government, should be obliged to justify it, publicly, by publishing full details of the problem.

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz – naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. **Someday all watches will be made this way.**

SEIKO KINETIC

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

MOLA
(b) A square of brightly coloured, appliquéd cloth worn as a blouse by Cuna Indian women of the San Blas Islands, Panama. (Native name.) In 1966 J. M Kelly admitted that the mola tops had been worn by the Spaniards "who did not like the women walking around with their breasts showing".

HAMBO
(a) A Swedish folk-dance in 3/4 time. (A toponym from *Hambo*, name of a parish in Hälsingland, Sweden.) In 1925, after a particularly heady night, Morten Harket commented: "We have been dancing in the Hylocks barn, dancing polskas and hambos."

INKY-PINKY
(a) A small beer. (Etymology obscure.) The word occurs in versions of the Hallowe'en play *Galatians*; see E. K Chambers, *English Folk Play* (1933). In 1842, R.Chambers in *Popular Rhymes of Scotland* modestly dismisses his manhood: "I have a little bottle of inky-pinky in my pocket."

JUVIA
(b) Juvia trees furnish the triangular nuts called, in Europe, the almonds of the Amazon, or Brazil-nuts. (American spelling.) In 1858 W. Baird noted in *The Encyclopedia of Natural Sciences* that "the natives are very fond of this nut, and celebrate the harvest of the juvia with great rejoicings."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ng5! wins as if 1 ... Bxh2 2 Rxh7+ Qxh7 3 Nxf7 is mate.

RADIO CHOICE

And here is the news

Mum, I've Got Something to Tell You. *Radio 4, 9.00pm.*

Kim Normanton's and Nigel Acheson's account of what happened when three girls told their parents they were lesbian, complements an earlier Radio 4 programme with the same title as tonight's in which three men announced they were homosexual. The mothers interviewed have now come to terms with their daughters' sexual reorientation. Indeed one of them accepted the situation without turning a hair. Her daughter offers a possible explanation — her mother had watched so many television soaps that she had no problem substituting reality for fantasy. We eavesdrop on the moment when, for a change, another of the daughters has some good news for her Mum.

Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera. *Radio 4, 10.45pm.*

There is no hint of a grand romance in episode one of this serialisation of Gabriel Garcia Márquez's novel. Yet it arrives on Radio 4 trumpeted as one of the great love stories of modern times. Having also heard episode two, I am able to give you an assurance that the first glimmer of an epic *affaire d'amour* is not long delayed. The setting is a Caribbean city, brilliantly painted as a place "where nothing has happened for four centuries except a slow ageing among withered laurels and putrefying swamps". A suicide leaves a note; its revelations are sensational. Robert Powell reads the novel in a way that left me wanting to know what happened next. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo, incl the Golden Hour **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session Steve Lamacq and Jo Whiley present Tricky **9.00** In Concert: Paul Weller **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days, and at **8.00** Big Band Era **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Himphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Vaudeville Red-Hot and Blue (2/4) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine, incl at **10.35** Euronews **11.30** News, Going Bananas **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Great Scots! Ian Archer talks to Jimmy Johnstone **8.00** The North East Football Forum Presented by Robin Bailey from the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** The Scott Inquiry **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Best of Bates **7.00** Moz Dee/Jonny Gould **10.00** Best of King **12.00** Nancy Roberts **3.00** Best of Boyd **5.00** Best of Raeburn **6.00** Mike Read's Pop Quiz **7.00** Sean Bolger **10.00** Gary Jacobs **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. **5.00am** News **5.30** Europe **6.00** News **6.30** Europe **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: *McSorley's Saloon* **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The Greenfield Collection **9.00** News in German **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sport **10.00** News **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *McSorley's Saloon* **11.00** New **11.30** Omnibus **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Ports of Call **1.00** New **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.00** News in German **3.15** Concert Hall **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** News **6.30** News in German **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack: Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Omnibus **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Ed Stewart **11.45** Development 96 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Folk Routes **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Man, Machine and Music **1.45** Health Matters **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Screenplay **3.00** World News **3.15** Sport **3.30** John Peel **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Ken Russell's Movie Classics (3/13) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Graham Dene **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Mark Forrest **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Strauss (Don Quixote); Mozart, transcr Busoni (Fantasy for mechanical organ); Respighi (Fountains of Rome); **8.05** Rossini (String Sonata No 1 in G); Dupré (Allegro deciso, Evocation, Op 37); Tchaikovsky (String Quartet Movement in B flat)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Scarlatti (Sonata in D); Gluck (Orfeo ed Euridice, Act 3, excerpts); Chopin (Polonaise in F sharp minor); Berlioz (La Mort de Cleopâtre)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Bach (Partita No 3 in E); Rheinberger (Cantus Missae); Rameau (Premier Concert, Pieces de clavecine en concerts); **11.10** Saint-Saëns (Samson and Delilah, excerpts); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 25 in C)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Villa-Lobos and Ginastera including Villa-Lobos (Amazonas; A lenda do Caboclo); Ginastera (Pampeana No 1;

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert. Timothy Hugh, cello, Philippe Cassard, piano, perform Schubert (Arpeggione Sonata in A minor); Falla, arr Maréchal (Suite populaire espagnole); Cassado (Requiebros)

2.00 Schools The Song Tree **2.15** Storybox **2.25** Let's Move **2.45** First Steps in Drama

3.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Fedor Glushchenko (r)

3.45 Oxbridge Organs Martin Souter plays the Mander organ at Magdalen College, Oxford

4.30 Misterioso Ian Carr presents the first of six programmes on the American pianist and composer Thelonious Monk

5.00 The Music Machine Tommy Pearson and Father Sergei Hackel consider the musical traditions of the Russian Orthodox Church

5.15 In Tune

7.30 BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Japan, with Steven Isserlis, cello. Tadaaki Otaka conducts Mathias (In Arcadia), Tchaikovsky (Variations on a Rococo Theme), Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor)

9.15 Metamorphoses (Metamorphosed) The first of five interpretations of tales from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Ted Hughes reads the myth of *Salmacis and Hermaphroditus* and the story of *Jupiter and Europa* is retold by Simon Armitage

9.25 Pisendel at the Court of Dresden. Collegium Musicum 90 under Simon Standage performs Telemann (Violin Concerto in B flat, Pisendel); Pisendel (Violin Concerto No 1 in E flat); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in D minor; Violin Sonata in C); Pisendel (Violin Concerto No 2 in E flat)

10.25 Keystrokes: Birds. An exploration of the 20th-century solo piano repertoire

10.45 Mixing It

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Music by Schumann, Brahms and Herzogenberg

1.00-2.00 Night School Letterbox **1.20** Singing Together

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **(LW** only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Letters from Over Here. Second in a series of six talks by Raymond Seitz, the former American Ambassador to London **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week with Melvyn Bragg

10.00-10.30 News; With Great Pleasure (FM only). The fashion designer Nicole Farhi introduces her selection of memorable prose and poetry

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from the Memorial Chapel, the University of Glasgow

10.15 *This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)*

10.30 Woman's Hour In Nevada, a woman has just been awarded $14.5 million in compensation for damage after receiving silicon implants. Fiona Hill reports on the potential legal repercussions

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444 from 10am

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm No Job Too Small Stuart Maconie presents a new series exploring the minutiae of life **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Dolphinarium, by Steve Walker. Kill every living dolphin we are told, and you destroy human individuality. With Michael Cochrane (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope listens to the music of Charles Ives and reviews *Talking Heads* by Alan Bennett

4.45 Short Story: Where is the Voice Coming From? by Eudora Welty

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Samsara, by Maya Chowdhry. Samsara is the river of birth and death. In the India of today and the 1940s, Tanujaa searches for the truth against the backdrop of the partition of India and the ensuing political upheaval. With Yasmin Sidwa and Nina Wadia

9.00 Mum, I've Got Something to Tell You See Choice

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera. See Choice

11.00-11.30 A Man For All Music (FM only). Andre Previn in conversation with June Knox-Mawer (2/4) **11.00 Education Matters (LW** only)

11.30-12.00 The Water Gypsies (FM only), by A.P. Herbert (3/6) (r)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Maybe the Moon, by Armistead Maupin. Shelley Thompson reads the sixth of ten parts

12.45 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

هكذا من الاصل

Of male strippers, elephants and sheepdogs

Blind, we were. Blind. Nagged by the question, "What is missing from Saturday night?", we used to answer "Ballet" or "Chess". But of course, what we lacked in our entertainment was the male arse in full flourish — a deficiency now made good by ITV's **The Bare Necessities**, the first example of prime-time skin drama aimed at the Chippendale crowd. That the Chippendale crowd are probably out at clubs on Saturdays is a point that was perhaps not fully considered when this pilot was scheduled. But for the sad chess-and-ballet fans who watch telly on Saturdays, Ken (*September Song*) Blakeson has written a larky tale to show us what we are missing. Five miners relinquish their hard hats when their pit closes, and then take heart. A new career beckons! Get those trousers off! And don't forget your best friend, if you'll pardon the expression.

The Bare Necessities was skilfully, busily directed, and it certainly had shock value. Whether the calendar close-ups of sock-filled Y-fronts were an acceptable substitute for plot and characterisation depends entirely on whether you want your sexuality prodded in such an obvious way. Sorry to sound ungrateful, but the target female audience for *The Bare Necessities* does not include anyone I know personally. I remember when *The Times* sent me to review the first night of the Chippendales (shrieks! screams!), and a stripper came on stage in a white naval uniform, to the theme-song from *An Officer and a Gentleman*. The crowd went barmy. "Who's he supposed to be?" I shouted, mystified, to my friend Susan. She shrugged. "Prince Philip?" she shouted back.

If *The Bare Necessities* becomes a series, it will be required to include a weekly ten minutes of pelvic thrusts, or the punters will hurl cocktail umbrellas at the screen. It's a funny old world beneath the overalls. On their first, impromptu stage appearance at the social club, the BNs strutted their stuff in masks, and one woman in the audience cried "I know those underpants! I ironed them this morning!" — which was a bit odd, really, when she had other clues to go on, such as her husband's otherwise naked body. By contrast, consider the speed and accuracy of contestants on *Pets Win Prizes* when asked to identify their hamster's bottom.

A subplot in *The Bare Necessities* entailed an unlovable bully called Big Vinnie (John Forgeham), a bejewelled ex-miner who taunted his less fortunate friends, and gave them the sack from his new (unbelievable) leisure centre project. He never exactly shone his nails on his lapel, but you know the type. Finally, the miners got their appropriate revenge. Would Vinnie be buried alive when "hardcore" was tipped down a shaft? No, he received a penis insult! He was forced to strip naked and then abused. "We'd love to take you on, Vinnie, but I don't think you've got the equipment."

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Which was why, perhaps, Sunday's new series of **The Natural World** (BBC2) came as such a relief. It concerned a family of elephants in Kenya's Amboseli National Park, and after a weekend of weary willy-jokes in such comedies as *Cybill* and *Jo Brand Through the Cakehole* (both Channel 4), it sorted out the genital supremacy issue once and for all. When a male elephant is in "must", he does not need to play a *Tom Jones record. In fact, I wonder* why *Kiss* turned up quite so many times in *The Bare Necessities*. Was it to squeeze maximum value out of the royalty payment?

Back on the African plains, however, *Echo and the Elephants* was a superb natural history programme, filmed over a four-year period, concerning a family led by Echo (enormous cross-tusked matriarch) and her immediate relations, all named with an "E". In no time at all, one's heart went out to Edwina, who broke her leg running away from a rampant bull. Little Eli had trouble with his legs, too. And baby Ebony slithered on the ground in her own after-birth, trying cutely to stand on her feet. Park-dweller Cynthia Moss has studied these elephants for 20 years, and is responsible for the names. "Ebony" seemed an odd choice (the elephant is grey), but perhaps she was fed up.

While the daylit landscape was glorious — time-lapse clouds wiffling across emerald grassland (and so on) — the most extraordinary scenes were shot at night with special cameras, in shades of grey. The birth of Ebony took place in this thrilling murk — a secret, intimate occasion, with the other elephants milling and huffing, excited, trumpeting. It was brilliant stuff. And it seems that elephant families always take an interest in each other's sex lives. When the young Edwina had her first sexual encounter, her mother was alongside throughout. She taught her how to trumpet "See you next week, then?" or whatever is the elephantine equivalent.

One thing we won't see next week is **One Man and His Dog** (BBC2), which reached feverish excitement on Saturday, when in the finals a dog called Nap narrowly beat a dog called Bute, or possibly the other way around. "It's almost been overwhelming," said earnest Robin Page, all passion spent — and yes, "almost" was the word. Too many of the finalists, in fact, suffered the indignity of the jump-cut bar wiping the screen from left to right, to indicate a hiatus in the distant doggy action too humiliating to include. Viewers transported by the sheep-dog trials in the film *Babe* (stadium with cheering punters, hats in the air) will have wondered at the crowd of 30 shivering on a hill. But that's reality for you.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (56047)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (29968912)

9.10 Kilroy. Discussion series (s) (2004573)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7340739) ***10.05* Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (6241660)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (20554)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6387641) **12.05pm Pebble Mill.** The guests include the singer Michael Ball (s) (9525047) **12.50 Regional News** and weather (13220202)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (80405)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (76151196) **1.55 Knots Landing** (s) (1456573)

2.40 Wonders of the Wild. A tribute to the late Konrad Lorenz, who studied greylag geese for more than half a century (s) (1743680)

3.05 Timekeepers. Quiz (s) (5759757)

3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (r) (s) (8822973) **3.55 Bodger and Badger** (s) (2077080) ***4.10 Chipmunks*** (r) (s) (5812905) **4.35 The Genie from Down Under.** (Ceefax) (s) (9013757)

5.00 Newsround. (Ceefax) (4488979) ***5.10* Blue Peter.** (Ceefax) (s) (7622370)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (653283)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis and Jennie Bond. (Ceefax) Weather (641)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (221)

***7.00* Noel's Telly Years.** Noel Edmonds's nostalgia quiz. Tonight's guests, Noddy Holder, Mary Peters, Cyril Smith and Lynsey de Paul, who all found fame in 1972, are asked questions about that year's headlines. (Ceefax) (s) (9196)

7.30 Watchdog — The Pet Trade. Chris Choi and Sallyann Keizer examine the darker side of Britain's passion for pets. (Ceefax) (s) (405)

8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (8844)

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Time-travelling sit-com. (Ceefax) (s) (7979)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Peter Sissons. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (8689)

9.30 Panorama. An investigation into an epidemic in Britain of potentially lethal bacteria. (Ceefax) (962738)

10.10 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed this week are *Leaving Las Vegas*, *Dangerous Minds*, *The Underneath* and *Mute Witness*. Plus an interview with Harrison Ford and Julia Ormond, the stars of *Sabrina*. (Ceefax) (s) (284015)

10.40 SERIES **Omnibus: Through Many Dangers — the Story of Gospel Music** (s) (6850912)

12.10am FILM: You Talkin' to Me? (1987) starring Jim Youngs. A black comedy set in 1980s Hollywood, about a failed method actor who transforms himself into a dumb blond. His new look attracts the attention of a racist television mogul and his attractive daughter. With James Noble, Mykel T. Williamson and Faith Ford. Directed by Charles Winkler (s) (2259158)

1.40 Weather (2223351)

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BBC2

6.00am Business Matters (57689)

7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (6348047)

7.15 Lassie (r) (3462825) **7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (7519080) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5581931)

8.30 Songs of Praise (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7326991)

9.05 Techno (s) (6334660) **9.25 Pathways of Belief: Christianity** (s) (6286028) **9.40 Square One** (s) (1800080)

10.00 Playdays (r) (s) (6240931) **10.25 Hotch Potch House** (s) (7408115) **10.45 Look and Read: Spywatch** (s) (4456592) **11.05 Zig Zag** (s) (6324414) **11.25 Technology Starters** (s) (8719660) ***11.40 English Time: The Ancient Mariner*** (s) (5495196) **12.00 The English Collection** (s) (45757)

12.30pm Working Lunch (73028) **1.00 History File** (s) (42366496) **1.20 Portrait of Europe** (s) (66766252)

1.40 Storytime (s) (64304950) **2.00 Joshua Jones** (r) (86718457)

2.10 FILM: Chance of a Lifetime (1990) starring Betty White. A widow with six months to live falls in love. Directed by Jonathon Sanger (692486)

3.55 News (Ceefax) (5472467)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (134) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (318)

5.00 Esther. A studio discussion on whether being rude gets people further in life than those who are courteous. (s) (2842)

5.30 The Village. Day-to-day life in a Hampshire village. (652554)

5.55 Turning Points. Verity Lambert. (387399)

6.00 Space Precinct. Futuristic police drama. (Ceefax) (s) (906450)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. Sci-fi adventures with Gil Gerard. (r) (133641)

7.30 Hidden Empire: Catch-a-Fire. In 19th-century Jamaica, Paul Bogle determined to lead his countrymen to freedom from white rule. (Ceefax) (s) (937)

8.00 SERIES **Horizon: Fermat's Last Theorem.** (Ceefax) (s) (303844)

8.50 Trade Secrets. Saville Row tailors impart secrets of their trade. (Ceefax) (239450)



Saga about four Geordies (9.00pm)

9.00 SERIES **Our Friends in the North.** (Ceefax) (s) (1896080)

10.15 The Travel Show Essential Guides. Weekend breaks in Paris, Prague and Rome (revised r) (875825)

10.30 Newsnight. (727912)

11.15 The Brains Trust. Mary Ann Sieghart of *The Times* is joined by Richard Dawkins, Ben Okri, Lisa Jardine and Paul Helm to discuss viewers' questions. (s) (891283)

11.55 Weather (514405)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (52142)

12.30am-7.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Our Friends in the North
BBC2, 9.00pm

Peter Flannery's drama cycle is no less than a history of Britain from the 1960s to the present day as reflected in the lives of four friends from the North East. They are played by Christopher Eccleston from *Cracker*, Daniel Craig, Mark Strong and Gina McKee. Each of the nine episodes covers a key year, starting in 1964 when the quartet are teenagers in Newcastle. We meet them as they are falling in and out of love and anticipating the Labour victory at the general election. Local government corruption is an early theme, with a council leader clearly based on the fallen Labour city boss, T. Dan Smith. Flannery's project is bold and ambitious, but the quality of the writing and casting and the attention to period detail suggest that a highly promising start will be maintained.

Cutting Edge: Sexual Harassment
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A psychologist puts it down to men unable to relate to women in the workplace. Perhaps it is simply male chauvinism by another name. Whatever the reason behind sexual harassment, this film claims that it affects *one in three women at work in Britain. The* programme highlights four cases in which women took their grievances to an industrial tribunal, with varying results. Complaining, the film makes all too clear, is not a simple matter. Among the allegedly harassed is an airline pilot who says she was sacked because she refused to respond to her chief's sexual demands. Generally, she says her male colleagues refused to accept that she could do the job. A comedian with blatantly sexist patter provides a ghastly running commentary. It rather spoils the thrust of the film that the women in the audience seem to laugh as loudly as the men.

Horizon: Fermat's Last Theorem
BBC2, 8.00pm

As a ten-year-old Andrew Wiles came across a mathematical puzzle that had baffled the best brains for 300 years and set his mind on solving it. Years later, as Professor Wiles of Princeton University, he got his chance. Pierre de Fermat was a French mathematician in the 17th century. His theorem was a development of Pythagoras's equation, familiar to schoolchildren, for right-angled triangles. The challenge for Wiles was to prove how Fermat got there. It happily needs no special knowledge of mathematics to follow an extraordinary story of obsession. For seven years Wiles worked in virtual seclusion, telling nobody about his progress except his wife and family. He finally made his findings public at a symposium in Cambridge, England. But even then a crucial gap remained.

Omnibus: Through Many Dangers
BBC1, 10.40pm

A documentary from the United States traces, in as much detail as most British viewers can want, the history of American gospel music. Dispensing with a commentary, the programme uses writers and academics to illuminate a rich selection of archive and contemporary film. The strength of the project is to put the music in its wider social and cultural setting. It shows how gospel arose as an unlikely blend of African slave songs and Methodist hymns. From then on the story embraces much of the history of black America, from the slave trade to the struggle for civil rights. The film also shows how, not without controversy, singers such as Mahalia Jackson, Rosetta Tharpe and Aretha Franklin took gospel out of the churches and into the mainstream of popular music. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2808844)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw(s) (4351738) **9.55 Regional News** (Teletext) (6227080)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (1008776)

10.35 This Morning(57249486) **12.20pm Regional News** (Teletext) (6383825)

12.30 ITN News (Teletext) Weather (6697047)

12.55 Shortland Street (Teletext) (9666641) ***1.20 Coronation Street*** (r). (Teletext) (32025912) **1.50 Home and Away** (76155912)

2.20 Chain Letters. (Teletext) (s) (18090931) **2.50 Simply Delicious with Family and Friends** (4534757)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (2279931) **3.25 Regional News** (2278202)

3.30 Rainbow Days (s) (2009689) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (7683912) **3.50 Disney's Goofy** (7689196) **4.00 Scooby Doo** (2812283) **4.15 Harry's Mad** (Teletext) (s) (544950) **4.45 Art Attack** (Teletext) (s) (9004009)

5.10 The List. Entertainments guide (6157912)

5.40 ITN News (Teletext) Weather (446080)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (659028)

6.25 HTV News (752689)

7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers with Philip Schofield and Emma Forbes (s) (7592)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (573)

8.00 World in Action. Concluding the two-part investigation into Marks & Spencer (Teletext) (s) (3912)

8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna. The hypnotist continues to explore unexplained phenomena (Teletext) (s) (2047)



Adam Levy as Sam Kline (9.00pm)

9.00 Call Red: Baptism of Fire. A new recruit joins the helicopter emergency team (Teletext) (1028)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (33912) ***10.30 HTV West*** headlines (Teletext) (942844)

10.40 Band of Gold: Caught. Carol risks her life (r) (Teletext) (s) (927825)

11.40 Tales From the Crypt: This'll Kill Ya. A chiller starring Sonia Braga (s) (905573)

12.10am Bushell on the Box. *The Sun*'s television critic trawls through the schedules (5297887)

12.40 Endsleigh League Extra (2048177)

1.25 The Crime Hour introduced by John Stalker and Mary Nightingale (2110264)

2.20 Jones and the Jury. Star Jones interrogates both parties involved in actual legal disputes (9741023)

2.45 FILM: The Silent Woman (1989). A thriller starring Marie Christine Barrault, Veronique Genest and Pierre Clementi (261974) **4.15 Night Bites** (84060806)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s)

5.00 An Invitation to Remember. Sir Michael Hordern talks about his career (r) (35516)

5.30 ITN Morning News (57697)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

5.10-5.40 Ready Money (6157912)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (817931)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Chain Letters (6672738)

1.25 Coronation Street (32024283)

1.55 Home and Away (76154283)

2.25 Gardeners' Diary (18008950)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4534757)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6157912)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (78573)

10.30-10.40 Westcountry News (942844)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (6672738)

1.25 Chain Letters (32024283)

1.55 A Country Practice (64387283)

2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (3132080)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6157912)

6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (817931)

11.40 World Championship Boxing (700405)

1.25am Bushell on the Box (3316697)

2.50 FILM: South Riding (8070351)

4.20 Jobfinder (2495697)

5.20 Asian Eye (3730784)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 Chain Letters (6672738)

1.25 Home and Away (32024283)

1.55 A Country Practice (76154283)

2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (5792641)

5.10 Home and Away (6157912)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (739)

6.30-7.00 Country Ways (689)

11.40 The Shape of Things (905573)

5.00am Freescreen (35516)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (70028)

9.00 Fifteen to One (50689)

9.30 Schools (57080)

12.00 Right to Reply (30825)

12.30pm Camberwick Green (68196)

1.00 Slot Meithrin: Caffi Sali Mali r (73115)

1.30 Crawshaws Sketching and Drawing Course (67467)

2.00 FILM: What Price Glory? (1641)

4.00 Backdate (202)

4.30 Gardens Without Borders: Costa Verde/Costa Brava (486)

5.00 5 Pump: Rownd a Rownd (3089660)

5.15 5 Pump: Fiell (4450196)

5.30 Countdown (738)

6.00 Newyddion (180270)

6.15 Heno (533467)

7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (937738)

7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (195641)

8.00 Joni Jones: Yr Ifaciwis (1554)

8.30 Newyddion (7919)

9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet: the Return of the Seven (2370)

10.00 Sgorio (5669370)

11.05 Roseanne (308486)

11.35 Myra Hindley - a Life Sentence (709776)

12.35am-1.35 Divine Magic: The Power of Voodoo (3884121)

4.00 Schools (7688852)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5988009)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (70028)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r). (Teletext) (s) (50689)

9.30 Schools: Geography (3492196) **9.45** *Book Box* (3420979) ***10.00 Stage Two*** Science (7490196) **10.15** Learn Sign Language (4548950) **10.20** Place and People (7494912) **10.40** The English Programme (7969370) **11.05** Encyclopedia Galactica (9564467) **11.15** The Mix (8715844) **11.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (5400038) ***11.45 Technology*** (5498283)

12.00 Crawshaw's Sketching and Drawing Course (s) (30825) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (82979) **1.30 Wowser** (r) (76177134) **1.55 St Ives** (r) (s) (64394573)

2.15 FILM: The Prisoner of Shark Island (1936 b/w). The true story of a doctor, William Mudd (played by Warner Baxter), who, after treating President Lincoln's assassin, was sentenced to life on Shark Island, a notoriously harsh prison. Directed by John Ford (Teletext) (686825)

4.00 Backdate (Teletext) (s) (202) **4.30 Countdown**. (Teletext) (s) (486)

5.00 Love in the Afternoon (s) (4405)

6.00 The Cosby Show (r) (Teletext) (979)

6.30 Hollyoaks. Phil Redmond's Chester-based teen soap. (Teletext) (s) (931)

7.00 Channel 4 News and weather (Teletext) (942486) **7.55 The Slot** (285047)

8.00 Screaming Reels. Nick Fisher meets Bob Nudd, world champion angler, in St Katharine's Dock, London, where they demonstrate that the Thames is full of fish as they reel in carp, bream, roach and eels. (Teletext) (s) (1554)

8.30 Wild Britain. Bats, shrews, hedgehogs and dormice survive in hedgerows in spite of 1,000 years of agriculture that has changed the landscape (r). (Teletext) (7919)



Nicky Wicks took legal action (9.00pm)

9.00 SERIES ***Cutting Edge:* Sexual Harassment.** (Teletext) (s) (2370)

10.00 FILM: A Stranger Among Us (1992). Tagged as *Witness*-with-a-twist, this is a thriller with Melanie Griffith as a hard cop, on the trail of a young Hasidic diamond cutter who has gone missing with gems worth nearly a million dollars and is then found dead. Directed by Sidney Lumet (Teletext) (s) (302738)

11.55 The Sexual Imperative. Examines one of the most powerful driving forces in nature (r) (Teletext) (s) (797931)

12.55am FILM: The Vicar of Bray (1937, b/w). Stanley Holloway stars as the Irish priest summoned to be tutor to the heir to the throne, only to find himself embroiled in the Civil War. Directed by Henry Edwards (8764805)

2.05 Doing It with You Is . . . Taboo (r) (s) (6921591) *Ends at* **3.05**

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.01am X-men(6059689) **7.35** Crazy Crow (3938405) **7.45** Trap Door (3918641) **8.00** Power Rangers (80844) **8.30** Press Your Luck (69115) **9.00** Court TV (70467) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (84950) **10.30** Concentration (34509) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (22405) **12.00** Jeopardy! (63931) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (11202) ***1.00 The Waltons*** (16757) **2.00** Geraldo (97844) **3.00** Court TV (3931) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey **4.15** Undun (162370) **4.45** Power Rangers (8721370) **5.40** X-Men (3353660) **5.00** Star Trek **6.00** The Simpsons (1202) **6.30** Jeopardy! (2554) **7.00** LAPD (5912) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8738) **8.00** Central Park West (46912) **9.00** Police Rescue (66776) **10.00** Star Trek Generation (69863) **11.00** Law and Order (35270) **12.00** David Letterman (6202603) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6596806) **1.30** The Edge (96764) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am *Sunrise* (9657979) **9.30** The Book Show (15628) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (4068009) **1.30** CBS News (18115) **2.30** Parliament Live (8115) **3.30** Parliament (3650) **6.30** *Tonight with Adam Boulton* (8218) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (930912) **11.30** CBS Evening News (73641) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (477901) **1.30** *Tonight with Adam Boulton* (94326) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (7934968) **3.30** Parliament Replay (32816) **3.30** Sky News (32516) **4.30** CBS News (69413) **5.30** ABC News

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Stage Door (1937) (39047) **8.00 Gold Diggers of 1933** (1933) (78196) **10.00 Taking Liberty** (1994) (22318) **12.00 Split Infinity** (1992) (91047) **2.00pm And Then There Was One** (1994) (5011)5 **4.00 Samurai Cowboy** (1993) (81115) **6.00 Taking Liberty** (1994) (2229)8 **7.30 Close-up** (6134) **8.00 Cliffhanger** starring Sylvester Stalone and Janine Turner (1993) (42196) **10.00 Benefit of the Doubt** (1993) (50151)4 **11.35 Back in Action** (1994) (2886)9 **1.00 For the Love of Nancy** (1994) (48351) **2.30 Choices** (1986) (25965) **4.00-6.00 Young Warriors** (1967) (46712)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939) (1757) **6.00 The Enemy Below** (1957) (45221) **8.00 Moon Machine** (1975) (24738) **10.00 Starman** (1984) (96487) **12.00 Cape Fear** (1962) (735081) **1.50-3.30am Angels with Dirty Faces** (1938) (828351)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Scooby-doo Meets the Boo Brothers(37899) **8.00 Yogi's Great Escape** (1987) (76738) **10.00 Harry Black and the Tiger** (1958) (13660) **12.00 Alexander the Great** (1956) (15905562) **2.15pm Where Are My Children?** (1994) (222841) **4.00 Yogi's Great Escape** (1987) (7757) **6.00 The Counterfeit Contessa** (1994) (61221) **8.00 There Are No Children Here** (1993) (40738) **10.00 The Paper** (1994) starring Michael Keaton, and Glenn Close (36405) **12.00 Dark Angel — the Ascent** (1994) (363413) **1.35am Fatain** (1992) (15163697) **3.50 Starting Again** (1994) (73392289)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (31023028) **8.30** Fraggle Rock (94572950) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (31825837) **7.30** Ducktales (56775234) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dales (49872283) **8.30** Wonderland (49871554) **9.00** Disney (31032776) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (17674842) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (49891318) **11.00** Muppet Babies (68150202) **11.30** Welcome to Pooh Corner (69151931) **12.00** Quack Attack (49875370) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (87990842) **1.00** Wonderland (32375478) **1.30** FILM: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (68898405) **3.10** World of Dinosaurs (30188115) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (71884450) **4.00** Quack Attack (82939347) **4.30** Ducktales (90034711) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dales (20284221) **5.30** Danger Bay (72034991) **6.00** Tarzan (75284414) **6.30** Dinosaurs (81589806) **7.00** Boy Meets World (20271757) **7.30** Thunder Alley (99684270) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Golden Seal (20159757)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (44841) **8.00** Cross-Country Skiing (54922) **9.00** Ski Jumping (56573) **10.00** Tennis (7077221) **6.00** Live Football (52955) **8.00** Football (59394) **9.00** Tennis (80370) **10.00** Football (90757) **11.00-12.30am** Speedworld (22399)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Gillette Word Sport Special (47738) **7.30** Racing News (59573) **8.00** World of Speed and Beauty (58370) **8.30** Powerboat World (57641) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (71221) **9.30** The Big League (93216) **11.30** *Soft Sailing* (55196) **12.00** *Max Out* (68757) **12.30pm** Football Special (84399) **2.30** Basketball (854554) **5.00** Max Out (1047) **5.30** Snowboard Tour (7405) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (4318) **6.30** Tartan Extra (8370) **7.00** Basketball: Sheffield Sharks v Birmingham Bullets (82689) **8.30** Ringside: Frankie Randall v Juan Coggi WBA Junior Welterweight Championships (43757) **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (68486) **10.30** Tartan Extra (78134) **11.00** Bushido the Ultimate Fight (56486) **12.00** Basketball (10887) **1.30am** Ringside Repeat (43429) **3.00-3.30** Sky Sports Centre (85158)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Cricket Hall of Famer Viv Richards (3805301) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (4799979) **12.00-1.00am** Golf: The Open Championship 1978 (5027871)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Entertainment **6.15** Ulf Ekman **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (7467844) **7.55** As the World Turns (9192863) **8.50** Peyton Place (1265509) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7860202) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6276973)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4687844) **11.30** To the Ends of the Earth (Part 1 of 2) (2309028) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian (5038912) **1.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (7650221) **1.30** Sky Travel Guide (5037283) **2.00** Trailside (8180009) **2.30** On Top of the World (22187776) **3.00** Getaway (8192844) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (2213221)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Hitler's Navy — the Story of the German Navy in the Second World War (4078198) **5.00** The Sneakers (8183196) **6.00-7.00** Biography. King Arthur (5046931)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (8184825) **7.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2299641) **8.00** Dark Secret of Harvest Home (4075573) **10.00** Close (7310680) **10.00am** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (9190390) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (8227784) **2.00-4.00** Dark Secret of Harvest Home (5800790)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (8672592) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (7029844) **10.00** Two's Country (7429115) **10.30** Our House (6678776) **11.00** The Painted House (5052757) **11.30** Running Repairs (5053486) **12.00** Julia Child (6869026) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (7023660) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8195912) **1.30** Local Heroes (7022931) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (2556398) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1826883) **3.00** Two's Country (2568134) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1898090)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (8105393) **7.30** Neighbours (8117134) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (6888399) **8.30** EastEnders (6650370) **9.00** The Bill (6674950) **9.30** The Sullivans (7021202) **10.00** Secret Army (8113318) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8193554) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (6661486) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7032316) **1.00** EastEnders (8197370) **1.30** The Bill (7031689) **2.00** The Sullivans (61283115) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (2402318) **3.00** Angels (2560582) **3.30** Eldorado (1807735) **4.00** Casualty (35681009) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (77581486) **6.15** Hanny's Comic Cuts (8930202) **6.25** EastEnders (5448216) **7.00** Eldorado (2552573) **7.30** Happy Ever After (1816486) **8.00** George and Mildred (2561221) **8.30** Alas Smith and Jones (2557028) **9.00** Casualty (4824009) **10.00** *The Bill* (9983028) **10.35** Top of the Pops (7900115) **11.25** Lenny Henry (1863399) **12.05am** Dr Who. The Invasion of Time (4620803) **12.35** FILM: Macao (1952) (86599055) **1.55** *Shopping* (27771357)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (96715) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (14047) **7.00** Ready or Not (48134) **7.30** California Dreams (25641) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (92738) **8.30** Tiny *TCC* (55894592) **12.35pm** *Tiny TCC* (2922689) **12.35** Little Bmm **12.50** Rosie and Jim **1.10** Bump **1.20** Teddy Trucks (49811009) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (7347) **3.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (3115) **3.30** Pink Panther (5202) **4.00** California Dreams (10091) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (3221)

NICKELODEON

5.00am Henny's Cat (5509738) **6.15** Blue, Child of the Earth (8325592) **6.45** Toucan Tec (9243931) **7.00** Betlink (7302912) **7.05** Gimmy (6076486) **7.45** Nicktoon Breakfast Feast (1272689) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (79863) **9.30** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (83554) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (53389) **11.00** Children's BBC (66863) **12.00** Magic School Bus (66399) **12.30pm** Grimmy (87370) **1.00** Global Guts (77979) **1.30** Visionaries (86641) **2.00** Children's BBC (21202) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (7844) **3.30** Mighty Max (67761) **4.00** The Ferals (5283) **4.30** Rugrats and Doug (1467) **5.00** Sister Sister (9689) **5.30** Mirror Mirror (5047) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (5660) **6.30** The Adventurers of Pete and Pete (6912) **7.00** The Odyssey (9825) **7.30-8.00** *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* (2196)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (*1817115*) **4.30** Lifeboat (1813399) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (2570979) **5.30** Terra X (1837979) **6.00** Invention (1827582) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (8275824) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1814028) **8.00** Invention (2569863) **8.30** Wonders of Weather (2548370) **9.00** Gulf War (4855979) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4825738) **11.00-12.00** Gulf War (8112689)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Monster from the Ocean Floor (6818863) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (7026757) **2.00** The Saint (74173370) **3.00** The Buccaneers (2555660) **3.30** The Adventures of William Tell (1825134) **4.00** FILM: Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter (2566776) **6.00** Robin Hood (1821318) **6.30** The Time Tunnel (8170270) **7.30** The Protectors (1801554) **8.00** The Saint (4822641) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (4842405) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Wizards of the Demon Sword (5050389)

PARAMOUNT

6.00pm Entertainment Tonight (8573) **8.30** *The Odd Couple* (7080) **9.00** Dear John (65573) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (99414) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (87008) **10.30** Saturday Night Live (39850) **11.30** Kids in the Hall (26757) **12.00** I Love Lucy (34784) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (90806) **1.00** Dear John (96264) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (30142) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (48516) **3.00** Saturday Night Live (68500) **3.30-4.00** Kids in the Hall (75784)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5565115) **7.00** Kilroy (9687047) **8.00** Esther (8208912) **8.30** Go for It (9207283) **9.00** Victorian Kitchen (31460261) **9.35** *Kate and Allie* (72366411) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8370950) **11.00** Young and Restless (8799999) **11.55** Brookside (6321466) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (4573216) **1.30** Crosswits (8371196) **2.00** Agony Hour (2965467) **3.00** Live at Three (1992026) **4.00** Inflation UK (1437399) **4.30** Crosswits (3022660) **5.05** Lingo (82492060) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (1440863) **6.00** Bewitched (1447776) **6.30** Brookside (2046009) **7.05** Food and Drink (2882950) **7.40** Joke's Wild (1940592) **8.05** Young and Restless (5060863) **8.00** FILM: *Tricks of the Trade* (8643654) **11.00** Sex Life (1905582) **11.30-12.00** More Sex Life (2686950)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Black Beauty (8660) **5.30** Tinhn (855650) **5.55** Batman (485221) **6.30** Catchphrase (2738) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (5196) **7.30** The Fall Guy (32950) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (3973) **9.00** The Mole (39680) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (49047) **11.00** Neon Rider (22554) **12.00** Fall Guy (77500) **1.00am** Batman (25790) **1.30** Rhoda (56158) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (10871) **2.30** Neon Rider (32968) **3.30** Rhoda (93158) **4.00** Big Brother Jake (32

STAKEHOLDING 38

GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON DRACULA AND DOCTOR VAN BLAIR

BUSINESS

BURNING ISSUE 38

IS THE FUSS OVER THE GAS LEVY JUST SO MUCH HOT AIR?

MONDAY JANUARY 15 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Fierce battle ahead to secure $1bn BA order for 60 jets

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH AIRWAYS has invited Airbus, Avro, Boeing, Fokker and McDonnell Douglas to tender to supply up to 60 new regional jet aircraft. The contract could be worth more than $1 billion.

Competition from airframe and jet engine manufacturers will be fierce to secure the largest such tender issued by British Airways since 1991 when it ordered up to 30 Boeing 777 aircraft. The new aircraft will replace old planes and provide extra capacity on short-haul European routes for BA, as well as domestic routes for British Airways Regional, and domestic and international routes for Deutsche BA, the German carrier in which BA holds a 49 per cent stake.

BA said yesterday that quietness would be a key consideration in its choice. The company wants to replace its fleet of Boeing 737-200s. These meet Chapter II noise regulations but BA wants its new generation of regional aircraft to exceed the more stringent Chapter III requirements and the tender document indicates that bidders must meet the highest noise standard. Many airports impose higher landing charges on noisy aircraft and BA indicated that hush-kitting some or all of the existing 737-200s was also an option.

Bob Ayling, the airline's chief executive, said that the tender was part of the long-term fleet acquisition programme and emphasised that BA would be working with its alliance partners, Deutsche BA and TAT, the French airline, to secure the best deal: "We are expecting substantial savings by buying in bulk."

BA is seeking a range of aircraft, to seat 80, 100 and 120 passengers. Competition at the smaller end of the range will pit British Aerospace's Avro RJ85 and RJ100, the successor to its "Whisperjet", against the F100 and F70 of Fokker, the struggling Dutch manufacturer. McDonnell Douglas will bid its 100-seater MD95, while competitors for the supply of larger planes include Boeing, with its new 737 series 500 or 600, and Airbus, which can offer the A319.

Rolls-Royce, which has recently won a string of orders from South-East Asian airlines, could supply engines for the Fokker or McDonnell Douglas options. The new Boeing 737s are powered by CFMI engines, made by GE-Snecma, an option for the Airbus A319, which can also be powered with International Aero Engine's engine. The British Aerospace Avro jets are fitted with Allied Signal LS507 power plants.

Economies of scale suggest that BA would like a single supplier for the whole range of aircraft, issuing 30 firm orders with options on another 30. However, aircraft industry experts doubt that a single aircraft could fit the wide range of passenger configurations. Flying larger aircraft with fewer seats would reduce fuel efficiency and BA is prepared to split the order between manufacturers.

BA is expected to make a decision this summer with delivery of firm orders required from January next year through to 1999.

RBS staff vote on strike plan

More than 2,000 Royal Bank of Scotland staff will begin voting today on whether to hold a series of one-day strikes over London allowances, which Bifu, the banking and finance union, claims have been frozen since 1990. It wants a 16 per cent increase on the three allowance bands.

Target verdict

The Government will achieve its £30 billion consumer expenditure growth target this year only if an additional £7 billion from bank/building society takeover payouts and maturing Tessas is released into the general economy, says a new report from Verdict Research.

City optimism

City fund managers from 83 institutions responsible for £880 billion of funds are more optimistic about the outlook for the UK economy over the next year, according to Merrill Lynch's latest Gallup survey published today. Some 80 per cent of the managers polled expect an improvement in the UK's fortunes against 73 per cent in December.

Media plan

Dealings in Mediakey, the publishing and media group, are due to start on January 29. The company will today issue the pathfinder prospectus for its flotation. The £20 million raised will be used to buy Video Arts Group and Marshall Information.

City Diary, page 37

Knight calls for urgency over pensions scandal

BY ROBERT MILLER

A SENIOR Treasury Minister yesterday called on all parties involved in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal to work together more closely to achieve "a just and fair" settlement for the one million-plus investors who may have received bad advice.

Many cases involve nurses, miners, teachers, local authority workers, firemen and police officers wrongly advised to leave generous occupational schemes, or not join in the first place, as were others in company schemes.

Tomorrow, the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog that instigated the mis-selling review more than two years ago, will publish a progress report. This will acknowledge the slippage of deadlines, which should have seen compensation payments made to the most urgent cases by the end of last year. Very few have received any redress.

Individual compensation payments to reinstate victims to the position they were in before they took out the personal plans range from £500 to more than £100,000.

Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister responsible for City regulation, told *The Times* that pension providers, independent financial advisers and watchdogs had a duty to ensure that long-running disputes should be resolved as speedily as possible.

Many of the battles have revolved around responsibility for the mis-selling and who should foot the bill. Mrs Knight was speaking after the GMB, Britain's largest general union, wrote to her and to Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for firms that sell direct to the public. The PIA has set up a special pensions unit, headed by Joanne Hindle, to oversee the industry-wide personal pensions mis-selling review.



Clarke: letter from GMB

In his letter to Ms Bowe, Bill Day, the GMB's national pensions officer, called on the PIA to issue new guidance or even rules to members to ensure that no potential case of personal pension mis-selling is "time-barred". This is a legal limitation period, which means that cases from more than six years ago may not be considered unless legal writs have been issued and served.

Mr Day continued: "We believe that investors who have potentially been victims of pensions mis-selling should be entitled to seek and obtain independent advice about the nature and quantum of any compensation which they may, or may not, be offered. It is wholly inappropriate that investors should have to entirely depend on advice from the same provider who got things so badly wrong in the first place."

The GMB letters follow a successful court case in Bristol last week when the union, together with the Royal College of Nursing, won the right for their members to pursue individual companies through the courts, including the Prudential, TSB, Hill Samuel, Irish Life and GAN Life, rather than being bound by the PIA review system. The landmark ruling could add hundreds of millions of pounds to the estimated £4 billion compensation and costs bill, which the industry will have to foot.

Mr Day has again called on the Government to run an advertising campaign "to fully inform the public that they may well have been victims of mis-selling and that remedies are available". Mrs Knight said the points raised in the letter would receive full consideration: "We have already made it easier for those who belonged to government schemes to come back in if they want to."

A senior SIB source said last night that most of the complex review problems had been solved and matters should proceed more quickly. Privately, City watchdogs have warned their members that failure to comply with the review could result in disciplinary action, including fines.



Angela Knight: "just and fair" settlement necessary

Granada and Forte slug it out as fight nears final round

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

SIR Rocco Forte, chairman of Forte, and Gerry Robinson, chairman designate of Granada, continued their corporate slanging match over the weekend as the £3.8 billion takeover battle rumbled towards its finale, scheduled for a week tomorrow.

The message from Sir Rocco was that shareholders should question Granada's claim that it can improve Forte's profits by more than £100 million "regardless of which businesses Granada decides to keep and regardless of the level of profitability which Forte intends to achieve".

Sir Rocco claimed that Granada had noted the "buoyant market conditions" and "enormous opportunity" the company's businesses provide. He added: "Who is best placed to capitalise on this opportunity, Forte, with its network of more than 270 hotels, or Granada, owner of just three hotels?"

According to Sir Rocco: "Forte has already achieved significant cost savings, with more to come, but Granada's emphasis on short-term cost-cutting is not a recipe for long-term growth. Our proposals provide much greater certainty than Granada's still-tenuous claims about its ability to manage Forte's business and improve its profitability."

Mr Robinson challenged Forte's directors to justify their policy of selling the company's restaurant and budget hotel operations to Whitbread, while retaining up-market hotels.

His message was: "Forte is proposing to sell those businesses which potentially have the highest growth rates, whilst being the least vulnerable to an economic downturn. These are the very businesses which protected Forte's profits in the last recession. They are also cash generators: the engine room of the business."

Mr Robinson claimed that "New Forte" will be over-exposed to a sector of the hotel market that is "highly cash consumptive, vulnerable to a downturn in the economy and offers a poor return on investment even in buoyant times". He added: "By putting all its eggs in this particular basket, Forte will create an unbalanced and more volatile company which will significantly increase the risks for shareholders."

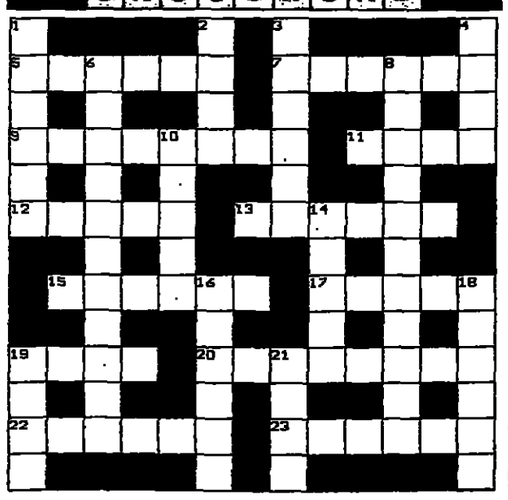
Granada's chief argued that "New Forte's" interest cover would be only three times, while dividend cover would be less than two. This, he said, contrasted with interest cover of eight for Granada/Forte — assuming the sale of the Exclusive and Meridien hotel chains — and four in the absence of such disposals.

Attacking Granada's claim that it will achieve additional profits of £100 million from Forte's operations, Forte states that Granada's estimates are based on a "fundamental misunderstanding of Forte's operational structure". Forte emphasises that its management structure is "totally distinct from the holding company approach adopted by Granada and many other conglomerates".

Mr Robinson retorted: "Forte's disbelief that its profits can be improved so much sums up the whole essence of the company's poor performance."

City Diary, page 37

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 678

ACROSS

5 Incompetent (6)
7 Rush-hour short-cut (3-3)
9 Heavy, revolving regulator device (8)
11 Tiny fragment of material, cloud (4)
12 Deride, jeer at (5)
13 Calculate, think (6)
15 Small boring tool (6)
17 Colourless spirit (5)
19 Malt/hops drink (4)
20 Greek philosopher, took hemlock (8)
22 (Thread for) surgical stitching (6)
23 Serious, reverent (6)

DOWN

1 Nursery-rhyme Miss's low seat (6)
2 Allot, distribute (4)
3 Partition grating (6)
4 Break; card game (4)
6 Jaques/Touchstone play (2,3,4,2)
8 Justification of existence (6,5)
10 Commercial lodging (5)
14 Insurance protection; place setting (5)
16 Spring festival (6)
18 Say yes (6)
19 Centre of operations; despicable (4)
21 Loss, expenditure (4)

SOLUTION TO No 677

ACROSS: 1 Diatribe 5 Plug 9 Serum 10 Avocado 11 Impasse 12 Trent 13 Yesterday 18 Aphid 20 Wastrel 22 Partner 23 Agape 24 Rind 25 Adjacent

DOWN: 1 Distil 2 Atrophy 3 Remus 4 Brave New World 6 Leave 7 Growth 8 Wonted 14 Siding 15 Yardage 16 Hamper 17 Fluent 19 Huron 21 Scala

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British Gas presses for a profit-share price cap

BY ROSS TIERNAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS is pressing for a profit-share clause in the next regulatory price cap on TransCo, its core subsidiary, which runs Britain's gas pipeline system.

Under proposals expected to be tabled by the company in talks with Ofgas, TransCo would hand back half of any "excess" profit, potentially amounting to tens of millions of pounds, to be passed on via price cuts to consumers.

Details of the proposals, revealed to *The Times*, coincide with alarm among consumer organisations that the Government may take powers to impose a levy on consumers to help British Gas overcome anticipated losses on its £40 billion worth of take-or-pay gas purchase contracts.

The TransCo profit proposal is designed to help British Gas pre-empt charges that it is making excess profits and could help to restore public esteem for a business tarnished by a string of public relations disasters. The proposals are also likely to find favour with both Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, and the Government.

The discussions between Ofgas and TransCo to shape a formula to cap the profits from its £18 billion pipeline system are scheduled to be held soon. The current formula, which limits gas transport charges to movements in the retail prices index, minus 5 per cent, expires in July 1997.

TransCo wants an inflation-based price cap that should allow scope for a real pre-tax return on new capital investment of 7.4 per cent to 8.9 per cent, up from the 6.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent allowed on new investment under the present formula.

The company is also allowed a return of 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent on existing assets. In total, these arrangements allow it to make profits of £700 million a year.

Under the proposals now being drawn up, TransCo would like the price cap to set a range of acceptable returns. But if profits exceed the maximum, half of the cash would be returned to customers the following year. Should returns fall below the range, it would like to claw back half of the shortfall in higher charges the following year.



Spottiswoode: welcome likely

Gas levy, page 38

Hands go up for time change

BY PHILIP BASSETT

BRITISH business overwhelmingly supports plans to switch to Western European time, according to new evidence today from the Confederation of British Industry.

Parliament has before it a private members' Bill that proposes to bring UK time into line with Europe. This has met with considerable opposition in Scotland, which is likely to be most affected.

In a survey of almost 1,200 of its member companies, the CBI reports 75 per cent want Britain to make a full move to Western European time. Such a step would mean moving clocks an hour ahead, making it light one hour later in the evenings and mornings darker one hour later. A full move to Western European time would mean that in winter Britain would work to what is now British summer time, and in summer to double current BST — current summer time, plus one hour.

UK business leaders believe Britain suffers heavily because its time frame is mostly out of line, a factor that makes contacts, deals and other European business negotiations needlessly more difficult.

In the south of England, 84 per cent of businesses surveyed were in favour, 75 per cent in Wales and Midlands and 70 per cent in the north and northern Ireland. Firms in Scotland were 72 per cent against, with 28 per cent in favour.

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Five years on, ex-President reveals Gulf War anxieties

Bush feared Iraqi troops would withdraw too soon

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE BUSH, the former American President, admits this week that he was immensely relieved President Saddam Hussein did not withdraw his troops voluntarily from Kuwait before the outbreak of the Gulf War in January 1991.

With the build-up of half a million American troops and hundreds of bombers and fighter planes in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, a last-minute withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers would have been "the worst of all possible worlds", Mr Bush says.

Disclosures by the former President about his anxieties during the Gulf War come on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the start of the American-led coalition air campaign against Iraq on the night of January 16-17. Interviewed by Sir David Frost, in a programme to be screened in America tomorrow, Mr Bush says: "If he'd pulled out totally from Kuwait and left his forces along the border, we would have been in a terrible bind." He says the US and its coalition partners would have had to keep a large force in Kuwait, but American public and congressional support would have evaporated.

He tells Sir David in the interview, recorded on December 12: "I worried that at the last minute he [Saddam] would pull out of there. We gave peace a chance. We tried to get him to do that. But as you look back on it now, that would have been the worst of all possible worlds."

Last week, Baroness Thatcher criticised Western political leaders for failing to force Saddam to accept formal surrender when the war came to an end. Interviewed for a four-part BBC documentary on the war, she said this failure had enabled the Iraqi leader to remain in power. Mr Bush admits in his television interview that he regretted not ending the war with a "clean" surrender. He says, however, that he has no such regrets about ending the coalition's ground campaign on February 28, 1991, four days after it had been launched, because of the fear of rising casualties among the fleeing Iraqi forces.

> All hell would have broken loose if the Israelis had been allowed to retaliate for the Scud attacks

He says the mission to end Iraqi aggression had been accomplished. The US military felt confident that the Iraqi war machine was sufficiently damaged, and the coalition would have been split by a decision to chase the Republican Guards to Baghdad. "There's a moral imperative here, and I don't think the United States, nor the United Kingdom, nor France, measure the extent of their victory by an increased body count," he says.

Mr Bush also discloses how he stopped the Israelis from entering the war after Iraq fired Scud ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv. The Israelis approached the United States because they wanted to overfly Saudi Arabia and Jordan to mount retaliatory raids. Mr Bush says: "We knew what kind of reaction that would bring in the Arab world if we had given them permission to do that. So we denied them the codes." The United States told the Israelis that, without the codes, their planes would be exposed to the threat of "friendly fire". He says: "They did not like that."

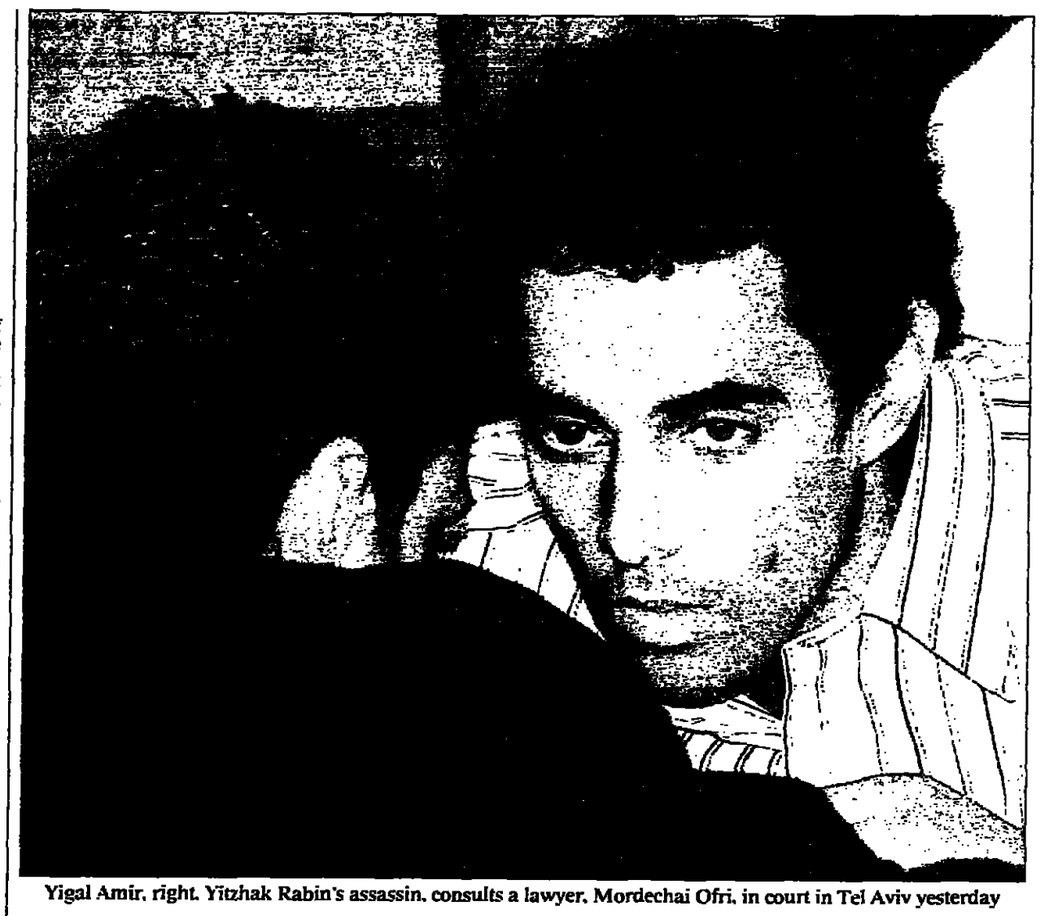
Mr Bush adds that "all hell would have broken loose" if the Israelis had retaliated. "We would have an instant shattering of this diverse coalition. And they knew that, too. And so we had to lean on them very hard to get them to lay aside that premise that, if somebody hits them, they're going to hit them back."

Last night, in the third part of the BBC's documentary, *The Gulf War*, General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, disclosed that there was a plan to bomb Iraq's dams on the Tigris and Euphrates if Saddam had attacked with chemical and biological weapons. General Powell said this would have caused enormous destruction and loss of life.

However, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, had been warned in a meeting with James Baker, then the US Secretary of State, that the Americans would exact a terrible price if chemical weapons were used. The Iraqis believed this meant America would retaliate with nuclear weapons, and the threat had the desired effect.

Mr Bush says this week that he never seriously contemplated using nuclear weapons.

☐ **Contract contest:** Britain and France are in close competition to sell missiles for Kuwait's French-made patrol boats. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was in Kuwait at the weekend to try to persuade the emirate to buy British Aerospace's Sea Skua missiles to equip eight P37 boats. The French are trying to sell MM15 missiles produced by Aerospatiale.

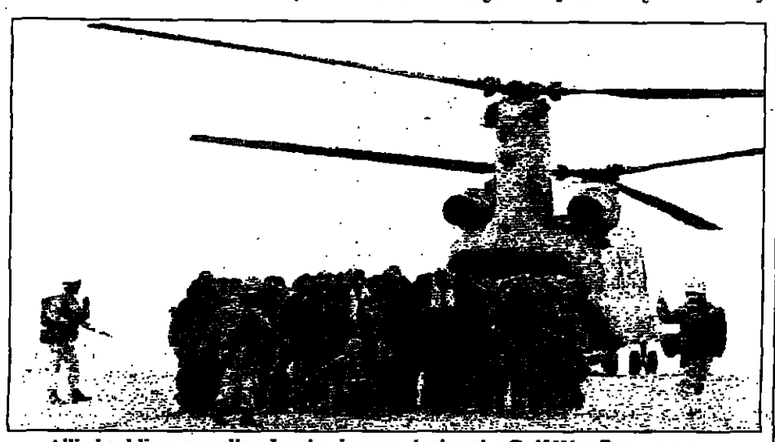


Yigal Amir, right, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, consults a lawyer, Mordechai Ofri, in court in Tel Aviv yesterday

Politician 'sought blessing for Rabin's killing'

Tel Aviv: A prominent Israeli politician tried to help Yitzhak Rabin's assassin to get rabbinical approval for the murder, a defence lawyer claimed yesterday. Moshe Meroz made his accusation at a court hearing for Yigal Amir, his brother Hagai, and a third alleged conspirator, Dror Adani. Yigal Amir's trial for the murder of the Israeli Prime Minister is due to start on January 23. Hagai Amir and Mr Adani are charged with conspiring with Yigal Amir to kill Rabin and attack Palestinians. Their trial was adjourned until April 17. Mr Meroz, who represents Hagai Amir, refused to name the politician. Yigal Amir said after the killing at a November 4 peace rally that it was justified by Jewish law. *(AP)*

☐ **Gaza City:** Palestinian police have captured members of the radical Abu Nidal group who were preparing an assassination and bombing campaign against the autonomous territories, officials said yesterday. *(AFP)*



Allied soldiers guarding Iraqi prisoners during the Gulf War five years ago

Saddam's defiant survival frustrates regretful West

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE anniversary this week of the start of the Gulf War provides a salutary reminder that, five years after the allies began pounding Baghdad with "smart" bombs and high-tech missiles, Iraq remains unfinished business for the American-led coalition that forced its retreat from Kuwait.

Far from being driven from power, President Saddam Hussein continues to order his state-controlled media to crow over what the daily *al-Qadisiya* claimed yesterday was his victory in "the mother of all battles". Only last week he was described in an intelligence report to the Israeli Cabinet as being in charge of a "stable" regime.

Although Iraq has been impoverished by continuing United Nations sanctions, most of its corrupt ruling elite have been cushioned from the worst effects, and there are still those who believe that Baghdad is secretly trying to put together some form of chemical or biological weapons programme.

The UN estimates that Iraq bought 39 tonnes of growth media before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Each tonne can yield ten tonnes of bacteriological weapons, and microbes causing deadly diseases such as anthrax have a long shelf life. Seventeen tonnes, enough to kill up to 60 million people, remain unaccounted for, a factor made all the more worrying by Jordan's interception last November of $25 million (£16 million) of Russian-made missile components, which were heading illegally for Baghdad.

Saddam's regime, which bolsters its rule by barbaric punishments such as the amputation of ears and hands and the branding of foreheads to prevent army desertions and to minimise the escalating crime figures, refuses to say who supplied the machinery, components, chemicals and biological precursors.

The Iraqi President continues to insist that Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish head of the UN Special Commission charged with overseeing the postwar destruction of Iraq's weapons programmes, should accept verbal assurances that the arms and warheads have been destroyed.

When the war ended with the ignominious flight of booty-laden Iraqi troops from the oil-rich emirate, which it continues to claim as its "19th province", it was widely expected that tough UN ceasefire conditions would force Saddam to co-operate with the international community or provoke his overthrow. Neither has happened.

Western hopes of the imminent downfall of "the Butcher of Baghdad" were again boosted last August by the damaging defection to Jordan of his influential son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, his brother, and their wives. However, the defections only confirmed the hopeless divisions between exiled opposition groups.

"The bottom line is that we did not win the Gulf War," said Laurie Mylroie, a leading Iraq expert. "We are in a state of self-imposed delusion because Saddam is taking revenge." Ms Mylroie, based in the United States, is one of a growing number of analysts calling for a shift in American policy. She says that it is now time to try actively to overthrow Saddam.

A Cairo-based diplomat said: "With every year that passes, the regrets are growing that we did not finish the job when there was an opportunity."

Crew adrift for 21 days

Dubai: Seven crew members adrift in a boat for three weeks in the Indian Ocean have been rescued after American military planes spotted them and radioed their location to a merchant ship, the US Navy said yesterday.

The crew of the *Navjevan* had been adrift for 21 days, all but one of them without food stocks, but were reported in good health after the *Pratishtha* picked them up and headed to the United Arab Emirates port of Dubai, naval officials said.

The *Navjevan* left Cochin, India on December 20, and lost its engines two days later. The crew then hoisted makeshift sails until a plane crew from the aircraft carrier *USS Nimitz* spotted them.

Terracotta army was robbed 1,800 years ago

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINESE archaeologists were not the first to discover the famous terracotta tomb warriors in 1974: 1,800 years ago robbers plundered the north China site for the gold and silver buried with the lifesize baked-clay statues which guard the tomb of Emperor Qin, near the modern city of Xian.

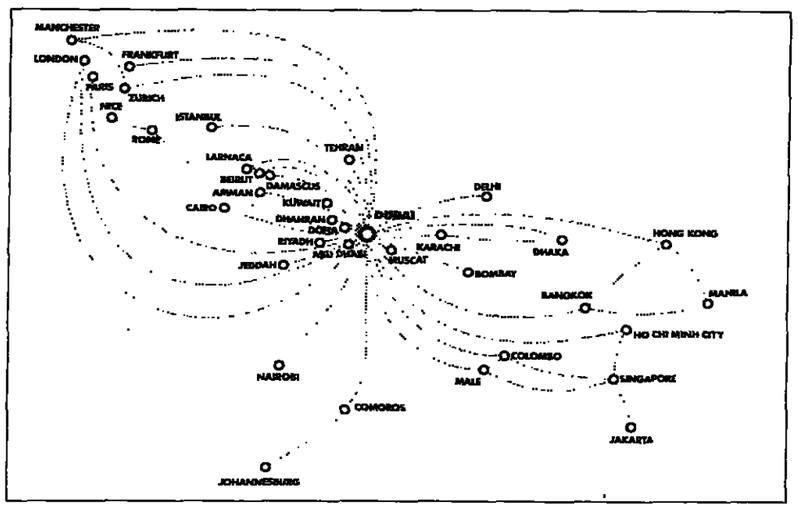
The discovery was made during a dig at the Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses. The museum was built over three pits full of terracotta warriors and horses, guards to the nether world for the first emperor of the Qin dynasty. The new finds were made in the last of three pits excavated.

The 65,000 square foot pit and its beams, pillars, passages and doorways had been preserved relatively intact because it suffered little damage from a fire in the late Qin dynasty.

The archaeologists have also discovered warriors mounted on horseback, shooting warriors and a carriage with four warriors — the first carriage found — in the third pit, which is thought to contain the richest store of relics.

Emperor Qin, credited with unifying China in 221BC, ruled with an iron fist until his death 11 years later. He built the Great Wall, but also buried scholars alive and burnt their books.

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'Elizabeth gets angry with Margaret, but family is all-important...

Elizabeth's story



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UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Guilt, Margaret and marriage

RELATIONSHIPS CAUSE SORROW

The year 1960 had begun well for Elizabeth, not only because of the birth of Prince Andrew and the delight of having a baby in the nursery again, but also because the perennial problem of her sister's love life seemed to have come to a happy conclusion.

After the affair with Peter Townsend had ended, one by one all Margaret's male friends had married and by 1956 it seemed that only the archetypal chinless wonder, Billy Wallace, the millionaire son of one of George VI's wartime ministers, was left. He repeatedly asked the Princess to marry him, she finally consented as much out of the fear of finding herself left on the shelf at 26 as from any real desire to become Wallace's wife. Then, to her outrage, the foolish fellow had a fling on holiday in the Bahamas, neglected to tell his royal fiancée that he was home until she tracked him down, and then blurted out the truth to her. To his great and continuing surprise she threw him out. Margaret was on her own again.

Elizabeth felt as responsible for her sister as she had when they were both in the nursery at No 145 Piccadilly. Now that "us four" had become "us three" and the headship of the family had descended upon her, she felt even more responsible. Indulging Margaret had become a family tradition, even when she was behaving badly, as she often did. "Ever since the breach with Townsend," Tommy Lascelles told a friend, "[the Princess] has become selfish and hard and wild." "She [Elizabeth] gets angry with her but family is all-important to her, and from that point of view Princess Margaret is one of the First Eleven," a friend said.

Subconsciously jealous of her sister, Margaret was not above cocking the occasional snook at her even now that she was Queen. Their relationship was much the same as it had been when they were children. At a picnic at Balmoral, Margaret might throw a dishcloth into her sister's face. One woman minister found Margaret's manner to Elizabeth "informal to the point of coarseness".



So in love: Princess Margaret and Antony Armstrong-Jones

After one state banquet at the Palace the women retired together as was the custom. The minister thought that the Queen looked particularly pretty in a gossamery evening dress, with the Garter ribbon on a sash across the bodice, and complimented her upon it. Whereupon Margaret said to her sister: "Darling, that does show your bosom up too much."

In December, 1959, Antony Armstrong-Jones, a society photographer, and Margaret became privately engaged. The Queen Mother was told to her great delight, but it was not until January at Sandringham that Tony formally asked the Queen's permission.

Elizabeth was almost maternally delighted by her sister's happiness, a joy undoubtedly tinged with relief that that difficult problem seemed to have been solved. The inescapable feeling of guilt which she had felt towards her sister since the Townsend affair was assuaged. News of the engagement was held back until after the birth of Prince Andrew.

In the early to mid-1960s the Snowdons were a popular, glamorous couple, undertaking numerous public engagements which reduced the pressure on Elizabeth. Both of them were indefatigable; so much so that *Private Eye* unkindly dubbed them "the two highest-paid performing dwarfs in Europe". In recognition of their growing family and their active royal role, Elizabeth gave them a larger 20-room apartment at Kensington Palace, No 1A. It had been unoccupied for some time and the bill for redecoration was estimated at £65,000, of which Elizabeth offered to pay £20,000 personally.

Elizabeth had always felt enormous sympathy for her sister, who could apparently never find her role in life. She understood the wilfulness which was really the futile beating of wings against a wall, and she could not help feeling the contrast between her own position both as Queen and as a successful wife and mother, and her younger sister's distinctly rocky path. As the Snowdon marriage began to unravel she hoped against hope that her sister would not be left alone again. "It oughtn't to have gone wrong — there's still deep affection there now," a friend said.

The trouble, as their friends had diagnosed from the start, was that the two of them were too alike, almost the same person. Sometimes it works in a relationship, but in their case it didn't. "They had a showbusiness quality and when it worked it was sensational," Snowdon's friend, Jocelyn Stevens, said. "But when it didn't, there was an atmosphere you couldn't kick your way through." Margaret's cousin, the Earl of Lichfield, following in Snowdon's footsteps as a photographer, described them as "trading insults like gunfire". They were both self-centred, devious, manipulative and capable of being sadistic.

For Elizabeth, the explosive state of her sister's marriage was a source of private worry and public concern. Margaret had a relationship with Robin Douglas-Home, the piano-playing nephew of the former Prime Minister, Sir Alec, and married to the model Sandra Paul; he later shot himself. Unambiguously passionate letters written to him by the Princess surfaced in New York and were published by a foreign magazine. The word divorce was already in the air as far as the Snowdons themselves were concerned, but as yet it seemed unthinkable.



Such devoted sisters: the Queen greets her sister at an informal reception given by the Girl Guides Association in 1970

In private the Snowdons' marriage had deteriorated so much by the early 1970s that they led virtually separate lives. Snowdon would refuse to speak to his wife even in front of the children, would spy on her through a hole in the wall, and leave insulting notes in drawers where she would find them.

He reverted to his Bohemian life, often spending nights away from Kensington Palace. Margaret, constrained by her birth from retaliating in kind, took refuge in her favourite whisky, Famous Grouse, and conspicuously put on weight. Wretchedly unhappy and increasingly frustrated, she seemed no longer to care about the effects of her behaviour on the public. Opponents of the monarchy and its cost, notably the Labour MP Willie Hamilton, made her the target of their criticism over the sensitive years during which the Palace was negotiating a rise in the Civil List with the Government.

Elizabeth's patience with her sister finally snapped over the Roddy Llewellyn affair, which began in 1973, when Margaret was 43 and Roddy Llewellyn only 25.

A year after their relationship began, Llewellyn found the situation too much to cope with and began to behave irrationally, taking off for Turkey on the spur of the moment without telling Margaret, then having a breakdown in Barbados. Margaret also suffered a brief breakdown in the autumn of 1974, "brought about by Tony's silences and insensitivity"; Lord Rupert Nevill and a friend became so concerned about her mental state during the marriage break-up that they arranged to bug the room where she and Snowdon had a confrontation, and sent the tape anonymously to a Harley Street psychiatrist, who was not given the identity of the couple. His verdict was: "This lady needs help soon." Once when a friend was having a house party, Margaret telephoned threatening suicide: "If you don't come over, I'll throw myself out of the window..." The friend rang Elizabeth, who coolly told him: "Carry on with your house-party. Her bedroom is on the ground floor..."

Margaret's marriage was in its final throes. On returning from Mustique after her holiday there with Llewellyn, she had asked her husband to move out of their Kensington Palace apartment, but he remained there, although during that time he was to begin a relationship with the woman he was later to marry, Lucy Lindsay-Hogg. "There he was, living in my house, thinking he could have a lovely affair," Margaret said. "I asked him for a separation but he laughed in my face. He was becoming a virtual stranger and we would meet on the stairs and growl at each other. And I had to go on behaving as if nothing was happening."

Unfortunately for Margaret and the Royal Family, events conspired to make her appear publicly as the guilty party. So far her relationship with Roddy Llewellyn had remained unknown to the general public although it was well known in royal and society circles; she had been lucky to "get away with it" for so long. Early in 1976 the *News of the World* published what appeared to be an intimate photograph of the Princess and Roddy, in swimming costumes, sitting side by side at a beach bar in Mustique. The implications were obvious — the profligate Princess on holiday with her toyboy. The newspaper had cut out the Princess's friends, Viscount Coke and his wife Valeria, sitting opposite, but that fact was considered irrelevant.

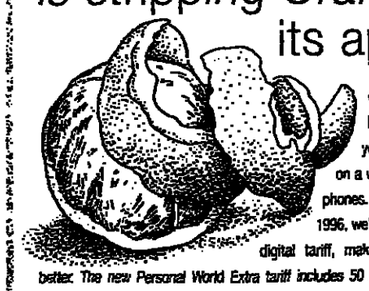
The spotlight was now turned on Roddy and his unroyal way of life on a rural commune at Surrendell, a 47-acre farm in Wiltshire, where, it emerged, Margaret had not only lunched but also spent the night. Margaret had thoroughly enjoyed these excursions into a different world, but the image of a middle-aged, hippy princess mixing with upper-class drop-outs was not one which commended itself to the public. The photograph precipitated the public crisis in the Snowdon marriage which had been threatening for so long. On its publication, Snowdon moved out; the advantage had been handed to

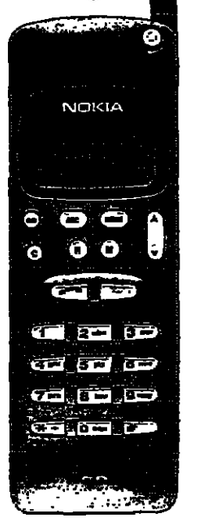
MARGARET AND SNOWDON

- Princess Margaret Rose: born August 21, 1930, Glamis Castle.
- Lord Snowdon: born Antony Charles Robert Armstrong-Jones, March 7, 1930, London.
- First met: at a Chelsea dinner party given by Lady Elizabeth Cavendish, February 20, 1958.
- Married: May 6, 1960, Westminster Abbey.
- Divorced: May 24, 1978. Lord Snowdon subsequently married Mrs Lucy Lindsay-Hogg (formerly Lucy Davies), December 15, 1978.
- Children: Viscount Linley, b November 3, 1961; Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones (now Lady Sarah Chatto), b May 1, 1964.

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...and from that point of view Margaret is one of the First Eleven'

Childhood, the Queen and the naughty little sister

TOPHAM



Elizabeth and Margaret arrive at Ballater station in 1946 for a holiday at Balmoral

ELIZABETH AND MARGARET GROWING UP

Elizabeth was four years and four months old when her sister, Margaret Rose, was born at Glamis on August 21, 1930. This time the fact that the new baby was not a boy caused disappointment.

Margaret was an entirely opposite character to Elizabeth. She was extrovert, capricious, attention-seeking and naughty. One of her governesses said that she was the most difficult child she had ever had to teach. "Princess Elizabeth was always charming and unselfish," one of her mother's friends wrote; "Princess Margaret naughty but amusing."

Elizabeth was maternally protective of her sister and would never hear a word of criticism of her. Even when Margaret had done something particularly exasperating, Elizabeth would simply say: "Oh, Margaret!" In return, Margaret gave Elizabeth her total loyalty. At times Margaret's behaviour might cause strain, sometimes when they were grown up she would lose her temper, even when that sister became the Queen, but the underlying family feeling was always there. The relationship established in the nursery was to continue into their adult lives, with Elizabeth as the responsible elder sister and Margaret as the naughty girl who was always getting into scrapes.

The sisters were always close, welded together by their parents in a close-knit family quartet, "us four", as their father called it. He was desperately determined that his younger daughter should not suffer the discrimination which he had experienced in comparison with his elder brother, the acknowledged heir to the throne ("You will never know the difference 18 months could make," he once told Mrs Baldwin, the Prime Minister's wife, bitterly referring to his childhood and adolescence).

As far as possible, the four-year difference between the two children was to be ignored and, from the moment the youngest was out of baby clothes, the two would be dressed the same with dresses, shoes and hats in identical colours. This apparently was considered perfectly normal for upper-class families at the time, but it struck even the assimilated Chips Channon as odd when he saw the two Princesses still dressed the same at the Thanksgiving Service for the end of the Second World War in 1945, when Elizabeth was 19 and Margaret not yet 15. Their father would overcompensate for what he saw as the inferiority of Margaret's position as the younger sister relative to the royal heiress by spoiling her, thus storing up trouble for the future.

During the war there was always the training battalion of the Grenadiers stationed at Windsor, and it was the job of the 300-strong No 1 Company, known as the Castle Company, to guard the Royal Family. Young officers of the Castle Company, such as Mark Bonham Carter and Hugh Euston, used to lunch regularly with the Princesses and their governesses, Crawfie and Monty. "There was a very happy atmosphere when one lunched," one officer remembered. "Princess Elizabeth was reserved but charming ... her sister was very forward."



Elizabeth's protective instinct shows in 1931

> 'It's so much easier when Margaret's there,' Elizabeth said, 'everybody laughs at what she says'

The young officers used to accompany the Princesses and their friends on picnics in Windsor Great Park and there would occasionally be small dances of around one hundred people. At weekends when the King and Queen were there, there were often childish games such as sardines played all over the Castle. The Queen was the life and soul of these occasions; once when Eleanor Roosevelt was staying there after the war, she was amused by after-dinner charades with the Queen prancing around wearing a false beard while Churchill sat grumpily frowning in an armchair.

At Christmas there was always a pantomime in which the Princesses took part, scripted by a local schoolmaster with a supporting cast of local schoolchildren. Sometimes even the Guardsmen appeared on stage, with the King directing operations. Pantomime posters were put up in the empty frames from which ancestral portraits had been removed for safekeeping, with ludicrous effects: Mother Goose appearing in a vast heavy gilt frame labelled Henrietta Maria, or Dick Whittington and his cat as Charles I.

A friend and contemporary of Elizabeth's who lived near the Castle described life there as having "a happy family atmosphere". Contrasting it with her own family relationships, which were difficult, she said: "It was really what a family should be... they were very, very devoted."

This cherished childhood, lived in such close tandem with a sister four years younger than herself, meant that Elizabeth was, as a friend said, "relatively young (for her age)", while Margaret was precocious for hers.

"The thing about her was that she was shy... didn't find things easy naturally, and there was always this stark comparison between her and Princess Margaret. The King used to look at Princess Margaret in sort of amazement that he had produced this object who found everything so easy and was a pretty little thing."

Princess Elizabeth was much more Hanoverian, much more solid; her face lit up when she smiled, but looked rather dead when she didn't — which remains the case today.

"The King spoilt Princess Margaret dreadfully," the daughter of one of his courtiers said. "She was his pet... she was always allowed to stay up to dinner at the age of 13 and to grow up too quickly. The courtiers didn't like her much — they found her amusing, but... She used to keep her parents and everyone waiting for dinner because she wanted to listen to the end of a programme on the radio. I remember my father despairing of her."

Crawfie, the royal nanny, sensibly, worried about the effect this was having on Elizabeth and asked friends: "Could you this year only ask Princess Elizabeth to your party? We really are trying to separate them a bit because Princess Margaret does draw all the attention and Princess Elizabeth lets her do that." Elizabeth herself used to say: "Oh, it's so much easier when Margaret's there — everybody laughs at what Margaret says..." Her mother also had the same effect of silencing Elizabeth. "I noticed that, when the Queen was present, her daughter made no conversational effort and relapsed into silence," Cecil Beaton wrote after one royal photographic session.

Things would not, however, be easy for her daughter Margaret, the spoilt darling of her father, the centre of attention at all the parties at Windsor, Balmoral and Buckingham Palace. Unlike her mother and sister, she had never had any role to play apart from exercising her talent to amuse and often (if you were a courtier's wife) to infuriate.

For Margaret, the death of her father meant expulsion from a childhood paradise. "The King's death," a friend said, "was a terrible thing for Princess Margaret; she worshipped him and it was also the first time anything really ghastly had happened to her." Her grief was heartbreaking — the unsympathetic John Gordon, then Editor of the *Sunday Express*, reported that she had had to be given bromide for four days to calm her. To Nancy Astor, she wrote a touching letter about her father.

"You know what a truly wonderful person he was, the very heart and centre of our family, and no one could have had a more loving and thoughtful father. We were such a happy family and we will have such lovely memories of him to remember when the grief of his loss has lessened.

"He was so kind and brave all his life. We are thanking God for His words of comfort that make us sure he is with Him, safe and happy and perhaps closer to us than he has ever been."

The King had been the centre of their universe; now he was suddenly gone and their world had shifted on its axis, its focal point the new Queen. Both were stunned. Elizabeth wrote: "Mummy and Margaret have the biggest grief to bear, for their future must seem very blank, while I have a job and a family to think of."

POPPERFOTO



The close sibling relationship under way in August 1932

him by his wife on a plate. Two days later a statement was issued from Kensington Palace:

"Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and the Earl of Snowdon have mutually agreed to live apart. The Princess will carry out her public duties and functions unaccompanied by Lord Snowdon. There are no plans for divorce proceedings."

Elizabeth's press secretary, Ronald Allison, told the press: "The Queen is naturally very sad at what happened," adding that there had been "no pressure from her on either Princess Margaret or Lord Snowdon to take any particular course". This was literally the truth. Elizabeth was indeed desperately sad at the failure of the marriage. She doted on the Snowdon children, who had spent so many of their holidays with her at Balmoral, Windsor and Sandringham while their parents were in some exotic location. She loved her sister, who seemed doomed never to find happiness. Even while she disapproved of the Roddy Llewellyn connection, describing it privately as "my sister's guttersnipe life", she had not attempted to forbid it. Like the rest of Margaret's inner circle, she felt somehow that the unhappy Princess's personal well-being was a responsibility on all of them.

Elizabeth and her advisers came to the conclusion that Roddy must temporarily disappear from the scene. The final act of Princess Margaret's doomed marriage was about to be played.

On May 10 it was announced from the Palace that the Princess was seeking a divorce; the statement stressed that she had no plans to remarry and intended to live her life as the Queen's sister to the full. It was not, however, the end of her friendship with Roddy. Elizabeth's arm's-length attitude to Roddy and his relationship with her sister was made perfectly plain in the difficulties over the organisation of Margaret's fiftieth birthday party in 1980. Elizabeth made it clear that she could not attend any party for her sister at which Roddy was present, as it would therefore appear that she was countenancing the relationship. Margaret wanted him at the dinner; Elizabeth did not want him there at all. There were rows and eventually a compromise was reached: Colin and Anne Tennant, who, as Margaret's oldest and most loyal friends, would otherwise have been seated at one of the top tables, were detailed off to give Roddy dinner elsewhere, and he would be allowed to come in after 10.30 with the after-dinner guests. It was a clear signal that there could be no future in the friendship, which had already lasted seven years. To everyone's surprise it was ended not by the Princess but by Roddy a year later, when he fell in love with and married Tania Soskin. The story ended happily for Roddy, who by this time had made a name for himself as a garden designer; he and Tania had two children and lived happily in an idyllic cottage in Oxfordshire. Margaret was alone again. "I'm back to where I started with Peter," she admitted, "but this time I'm divorced..."

> The Queen described the Roddy Llewellyn connection as 'my sister's guttersnipe life'

Elizabeth remained on good terms with Snowdon after the divorce. However badly he might have behaved towards her sister when their marriage was on the road to ruin, his comportment afterwards was impeccable and he proved to be an excellent father, although sometimes showing a cruel streak. Elizabeth was very fond of the Snowdon children, particularly Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones; "she virtually brought them up," a friend said. "They love the Queen and she loves them."

● *Edited extracts from* Elizabeth, A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, *to be published by William Heinemann on February 5, £20*

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Book offer

Copies of *Elizabeth* can be bought by readers of *The Times* at a special price of £15 each (post and package free) from Reed Book Services, PO Box 5, Rushden, Northants NN10 6XJ (01933 414000). Cross cheques and make payable to Reed Books Services Ltd, with name and full address on the back, quoting reference K128. Allow up to 28 days for delivery from February 5.



A love of horses on courses

RACEGOER

TIM GRAHAM



Thrill of the turf: the excitement is all too much at Ascot

Elizabeth's one extravagance is her racing, and even that is kept as far as possible on a businesslike basis. She is no longer one of the leading owners, either in terms of number of horses in training or prize money.

Racing today is a big-money business and has changed out of all recognition since the advent of the really big players such as the al-Maktoum brothers a decade ago. The Arabs have 500 mares, Elizabeth only 20. Three-quarters of the Arabs' horses are bought at public auction with money no object. Elizabeth rarely buys, partly because there would be political repercussions if she spent vast sums on horses. She races the horses that she breeds.

As far as breeding goes, she has the studs which she inherited — two in Norfolk on the Sandringham estate and one at Polhampton in Hampshire, where she keeps her yearlings. In 1982 she bought West Ilsley training stables in Berkshire for about £750,000. Some of her horses were already being trained there by Major Dick Hern (who was given a seven-year lease terminating in 1989), but Elizabeth decided she would like to own a racing stables.

As the Queen's income is now taxed, the studs are a business and have to be profitable. "This is difficult to achieve and if the exercise comes out all square, that's what we're aiming for," her racing manager, the Earl of Carnarvon, says.

As well as loving all horses and knowing a great deal about them, Elizabeth likes going racing, as any teleshot of her at Ascot will show, when she comes alive as she never does on ceremonial occasions.

Why female spiders make a meal of mating

Dying for sex



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

THE MATING habits of the spider have always struck a chill into the faint-hearted. The much smaller males, overcoming their fear of the voracious females, approach and may make themselves known by plucking gently at the female's web. They can hang about for days waiting to be noticed, dancing, posing, or even offering the object of their interest a fly to unwrap.

Despite it all, many males are eaten by the females as soon as they have mated with them. Sometimes, a pathetic male with only a few legs left continues to struggle for sex long after a sensible creature would have given up. Biologists have long puzzled over this, for sexual cannibalism seems to offer no advantage to males, and not much more than a good lunch to females.

Now two explanations have emerged at the same time. Gorán Arnquist and Stefan Henriksson of Umea University in Sweden claim that it is simply a hangover from the female's youth. They studied fishing spiders, which grow more than an inch long and live on tadpoles and small fish.

Female spiders produce only a single batch of eggs, and the number of eggs depends on the size of the female. The more she eats, the more eggs, and the greater the number of progeny. This means that selection pressure for voracious females is immensely strong, and is governed by a single hormone, so the creatures cannot turn off their appetites when they are adult.

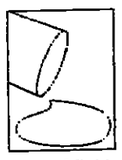
For the behaviour to survive, the benefits of a big appetite for females must exceed the risks of diminishing their progeny by eating its father. But what about the males?

Maydianne Andrade, a zoologist from the University of Toronto, studied the Australian Redback spider, a species in which males co-operate in their demise by somersaulting during sex to position themselves above the female's jaws.

Bizarre, on the face of it. But Ms Andrade found that cannibalised males copulated longer, and fertilised more eggs, than those which survived. In addition, females that ate a mate were more likely to reject another. So the males gain by increasing the chances that their genes will carry on.

In any case, she reports in *Science*, males generally mate only once, so by dying they lose little in terms of opportunities. And because the females are prone to promiscuity, males gain by protecting their paternity in the single chance they get. If it costs them their lives, so what?

Benefits of solid work on fluids



A FLUID is a fluid until it is constrained in a very thin layer between two smooth surfaces. Then it becomes a solid, Israeli scientists have discovered.

The result is paradoxical because an unconstrained layer of fluid — a drink spilt on a table, for example — continues to flow downhill however thin it is. But if there is a second surface above it, and if the layer is no more than six molecules thick, it goes solid.

Hitherto the only way of achieving such a change was by increasing pressure or by freezing. Using a fluid called octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (OMCTS) Jacob Klein and Eugenia Kumacheva, of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth, have shown that an abrupt change takes place as the gap narrows.

At seven molecules thick the fluid flows. At six molecules thick it suddenly goes solid, shear resistance increasing ten-millionfold so that the fluid no longer escapes from between the surfaces.

The finding could have implications for lubrication, for the wear of rubbing surfaces, and for the wetting of surfaces by fluids. The Weizmann team has found the effect in other fluids too, and is now going on to investigate the nature of the transition and of the "solid" produced.

Did Stonehenge slide into place?



WERE the bluestones of Stonehenge dragged to Salisbury Plain by teams of men, or carried there by glaciers? They come from a mountain in Mid-Wales, so some agency must have borne them to their present location.

A year ago, David Bowen, of the University of Wales in Cardiff, used chlorine-36 dating, which shows when a rock surface was first exposed to air, to disprove the glacial theory. His figures showed that a sample of stone from Stonehenge had been exposed only 14,000 years ago, too late for any ice-sheet to have carried it to Wiltshire.

Now the glacial theorists have hit back. In *Antiquity*, Olwen Williams-Thorpe, of the Open University, and some colleagues argue that the fragment dated by Professor Bowen might indeed have been carried by glaciers, then reburied. Or it might have broken off recently from a much larger piece, exposing a new surface.

Chlorine-36 dating could help to date the outcrops of stone in Wales, and the bluestones of Stonehenge, if sufficient samples of undamaged stone could be found, they say. But the results would still be open to interpretation. "Chlorine-36 dates give no evidence either for or against glacial transport of the bluestones of Stonehenge," they conclude.



Born to question: birth order may be more important than genes or social class in determining how revolutionary a child will grow up to be

Are younger siblings rebels with a cause?

Matt Ridley reports on a new theory that suggests first-born children grow up to defend the status quo while later offspring tend to kick over the political and intellectual traces

Come the revolution, what drives some people into rebellion and others into reaction? Self-interest plays a big part. But it is also plain that some people are inherently more radical than others. According to an extraordinary new study, soon to be published, the most powerful predictor of whether somebody will join or resist a revolution, political or intellectual, is his or her birth order. Younger children rebel, eldest children defend the status quo.

On hearing this, most people respond by thinking of exceptions. But give Frank Sulloway of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the author of this theory, a chance to explain himself. Sulloway is not a man to do things by half. A respected psychologist and expert statistician, he has spent 26 years gathering data on the effect of birth order on personality. His methods are objective. He has asked more than 100 historians to score thousands of historical characters according to how revolutionary or reactionary the person was on various different measures. Then he painstakingly tracked down the birth order of as many as he could.

Take one of his examples: the theory of evolution. Between 1700 and 1875, many hundreds of people expressed views on evolution. Throughout those years, evolution was seen as a radical, subversive doctrine. Sulloway found a marked difference between elder siblings and younger ones. Individual later-borns were ten times more likely than firstborns to believe in evolution — a difference that persisted until the late 19th century, when evolution at last became a respectable idea and the birth-order effect disappeared.

He then compared their views with the age at which they expressed them. As expected, older people were less likely to support the radical doctrine of evolution than younger people. But a 25-year-old firstborn was as likely to support evolution as an 80-year-old later-born. Birth order is even stronger than age in its effect on radicalism.

It is also much stronger than social class. Upper-class Charles Darwin and lower-class Alfred Russel Wallace were younger children and supporters of evolution. Upper-class Charles Lyell and lower-class William Whewell were eldest children and opposed it. This pattern was repeated throughout. Yet whole acclaimed biographies have been written of Darwin arguing that the fight for and against evolution was determined largely by the protagonists' views on the social order. Such books do not even mention birth order.

Charles Darwin, a fifth-generation younger child and four years younger than his next oldest sibling, was, in Sulloway's phrase, "loaded to the gills with predictable factors" for making him a radical in his chosen field. The wealthy and reclusive son of a tists. 893 members of the French National Convention during the Terror of 1793-94, the leaders of 62 different American reform movements, such as the abolition of slavery, and more than 700 protagonists in the Protestant Reformation in Europe. In each case, younger children were far more likely to support reform or revolution, while elder children were more likely to support reaction.



Charles Darwin was a fifth-generation younger sibling

Darwin was loaded with 'radical' factors

The effect is proportional to how radical the revolution is. Thus, Newtonian physics, which had fewer political and religious implications than Darwinian biology, was less strongly associated with younger children. Eugenics and spiritualism, which were reactionary movements, were actually led by first-borns. Many theories, including psychoanalysis, relativity and Copernican astronomy were supported by later-borns when they were new and heretical, then

Sulloway finds that many of them are exceptions that prove the rule. For instance, if there is marked conflict between parents and children, the eldest child is often radicalised more than the younger ones. Likewise, an individual's tendency towards shyness or extroversion seems to be largely an innate characteristic that masks the effect of birth order. Shy people are fence-sitters regardless of their birth orders. And one first-born biologist, after listening to Sulloway, comforted himself with the thought that he spent most of his youth at boarding school, when he felt very much like a younger brother.

The really intriguing thing about Sulloway's argument (which will appear in his book *Born to Rebel*, to be published by Pantheon later this year) is that he has come to believe that it fits neatly into a neo-Darwinian theory. In other words, it may actually be an adaptive response rather than more sense I can make of it," says Sulloway.

Modern neo-Darwinism is all about conflict: conflict between genes, between genders, between parents and offspring, and between siblings. Darwinists predict that siblings sometimes have to compete for their share of parental investment. In extreme cases, some eagle chicks always kill all their younger siblings to ensure a monopoly of parental care.

In a similar way, it seems, human children learn to diversify their behaviour and interests to avoid too much direct competition with siblings. Later-born human children, in particular, seem to develop an inclination to strike out on their own, choose career paths different from their siblings, and fight for attention by being open-minded, risk-taking and radical. These can be faults rather than advantages: gullibility is a later-born characteristic.

As Sulloway predicts, this pattern sometimes results in a zig-zag effect in large families with some younger children being reactionary just in reaction to the radicalism of the next sibling up.

Sulloway's argument demolishes all simplistic notions of nature and nurture. Until now it was thought that being brought up in the same family was as close as you could get to having the same environment. But it is not. Being number one in a large family is a very different experience from being number three. It is as different as being the dominant or the subordinate animal in a troop of monkeys.

If Sulloway is right, it might seem to vindicate those who argue that human nature is determined by environment, not genes. But in fact it does no such thing. The neo-Darwinian argument that there is such a thing as an adaptive human nature has never assumed that all differences between individuals are genetic. Quite the reverse: it argues that we all have much the same genes, designed to react to different environments in different ways. First-borns have different personalites from later-borns not because of "culture" but because of common human instincts.

Neo-Darwinians have been saying for years that they are not genetic determinists obsessed with nature rather than nurture. Rather, they have insisted that human nature was an evolved set of adaptations, some of them hard-wired, others designed to be flexibly altered by the environment. Conventional wisdom in the social sciences holds that people are just random, hapless victims of their peculiar background culture, as if culture were some summo-

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Out of my mind with terror



For years, Melvyn Bragg secretly lived in fear of 'out of body experiences'. For the first time, he tells how he overcame his nightmare



THE FLYING MAN, by MARK PENBERTHY

An artist's view of the "out of body experience" — Melvyn Bragg now believes that such events may be evidence of a distinction between body and soul

They began when I was about 13 and continued upwards of two years, at times intensively. They faded away slowly, but still at 18 or 19 I was apprehensive that they might return, and in force. They did, briefly, at the end of my twenties, but since then I have been spared.

Usually they came at night. I cannot recall the first time, but I do remember the first onslaught. My parents kept a pub and they would be downstairs from about 5.30pm until after 11pm. I would have been out at choir practice, the Scouts, swimming, playing football, whatever, and come back to take it on. Having eaten a quick snack in the bar kitchen downstairs, I would go up to my bedroom — I would be alone in the flat above the pub. I would know that it was waiting for me, but I had no alternative but to go upstairs, although I would feel distraught.

> That thing, that object hovering on the ceiling, was me

I used to say my prayers then and yet I never mentioned this fear in them. For one thing, that would have been to extemporise, and the prayers I said were set ones, spoken twice on Sundays in church and most mornings in school assembly. There was no room for individual additions except to bless parents and relations, but that was somehow allowed for. What was not allowed was to tell anyone what was happening.

I cannot remember before or since being anything like as terrified. I remember the fact of it now, and even a little digging into memory gives off something of the taste of it. I would simply lie in bed waiting for it to happen, screwing up my eyes as tight as possible, hoping that I would be felled by instant, merciful sleep or somehow left alone. When I was, the relief the next morning was momentary before the fear began to build again.

What happened was this. Not *part* of me, but *what I was* left the boy's body on that bed and went above — it seemed to the corner of the ceiling next to the window. It hovered there. It stayed there. It, that thing, that object, was me. The huddle on the bed was controlled by it. There was no will in the boy's body. There was only, as it were, a holding state uninhabited, save for a possessing aura of terror. Whether the terror was in the body or in that thing which, at times, I thought I could make out and describe, I do not know. But the experience was terror.

If the thing moved away then the body would be finished. It would be no more, because that thing not only controlled the body but gave it life. The desperate fear was — would these two fuse again or not? What did this presence want the body to do besides lying inert and being a void? Somehow an invisible helpline would be thrown and the two would come together — and usually by that time I was exhausted and went into sleep of a sort.

This became the secret obsession of my life over those years. The noise from the pub downstairs, which could be lulling or, sometimes on Fridays and Saturdays, rather threatening, would often be a help. But when the pub closed and my parents had cleared up and settled downstairs for their final talk, the silence intensified the dread.

On spring and summer nights they would often go out for a walk after they had cleared up. I wanted to rush down and beg them not to after the cheery "We're just off for a bit of fresh air", but of course I would have been ashamed to have done that. I dare not. Left alone was the worst possible state. And so I would track their walk. I knew the route. I would try to time it. I would try to "be" with them.

Down Burnfoot past Scott's, where they used to have the funeral horses, to Joe Hill's on the corner with a shed in the garden where he slept for his asthma. Then into Birdcage Walk, along the cinder track past the allotments, with the pigeons silent as the pub, and on to the West Cumberland Farmers' warehouses. I feared I was always ahead of them and forced myself to slow down. Past Toppins field, where I used to sledge and where I used to play when I lived in Council House Yard. Toppins field, with its great beech tree and its bomb shelters dug in the war. Then the Redmaynes clothing factory where my mother had worked as a girl.

Then they would turn into Station Road opposite the factory and slowly up the hill back into the middle of the town, left around Blue Bell corner, past Tickle's Lane and Plaskett's Lane and down towards the pub. I was always ahead and so I'd go over the route again trying to pick out more and more details until I heard them coming down the hill and, finally, the key turned in the lock and there would be some comfort.

These experiences, or attacks, were never anything other than utterly terrifying. I have read other people describing analogous experiences in terms of happiness and hope; that was never mine. In its most intensive period, they began to happen in the classroom, on the street, everywhere, and I seemed to spend my entire time constructing strategies to evade them or endure them.

It was impossible to talk to anyone about it. My parents could not have been better or kinder, but it was inconceivable that I could discuss this with them. How would I describe it? What would I, literally, say?

It has taken me this long to be able to write about it openly and autobiographically, although it was part of the main character in my first novel — when I was 25 — unconsciously as it were.

I was still convinced that I had never admitted to it when, consciously, I made this state part of the underpinning of the main character in a later novel when I was in my late forties. But it was when I found myself referring to it in a recent interview about religious belief, in which the possibility of a duality and a soul was introduced, that I wanted to begin to put on paper something of that experience.

I could not talk to my parents, as I have said. I was not ill, so there was no need of a doctor. It was totally off the radar as far as friends were concerned. I just had to get through it, although at the time I thought simultaneously both that it would never end and that this attack could be the last.

I am sure that there are a number of plausible explanations. We know that people with an amputated arm can be driven to a frenzy at the pain in their missing fingers. We know from those who have been almost dead but just "returned" that similar experiences to mine are not uncommon. A. J. Ayer described one such most vividly.

There are fantasies within the human condition and in the casebooks of many analysts — Oliver Sachs is just one example — which furnish explained instances of circumstances much more bizarre. I am sure that materialists of consciousness will bring forward proof and so on. And there is the undeniable, unpredictable pressure of adolescence.

But at the risk of building far too much on this slender base of personal experience, my current thinking is that what I experienced is evidence of a duality, of a split, in Christian terms, of a distinction between body and soul.

It is relevant perhaps, and it could take away from my case that I was brought up as a strong Christian and the religious experience was, with me — as is common — especially strong in early adolescence. But the solidity of the thing which was undoubtedly outside my body, and the number of times it happened, and most importantly, the fact that it *was* the life, the intelligence as it were, is something I cannot, and do not want to, deny.

I'm prepared to be told that this evidence is too personal and too slight, but for what it is worth I hold on to it and find in it a duality which magnetises my earlier, schooled, received faith.

Perhaps these experiences would have faded away on their own, but at about 15 I realised that I had to attack them. At the same time I was not doing well at school and I knew that I had to study or leave and get work. I began to overwork and to write and to do as many other things as I could manage. Most importantly, I stayed in that bedroom studying on a chopped-off table which was wedged between the bed and the wardrobe. This was a conscious attempt to face up to it, in the very place where I had experienced it most violently and frighteningly. Gradually, I grew a bit stronger, although even in my late twenties I could feel fragile and vulnerable.

It is something that I would like to understand more. I would also like to gather up the determination to attempt to go through that experience again, but that will take a build-up of energy and nerve which another part of me says it would be foolish to do. To seek to uncork a part of the past now blessedly gone would be not only painful but dangerous.

Standing up for gallantry



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

ON A crowded Tube between Camden Town and Euston one morning last week, a woman I had never met before told me she was 38. It was an unsolicited gobbet of personal information, and left me feeling a bit of a cad. One should never, I had always believed, put a woman in a position where she is forced to reveal her age.

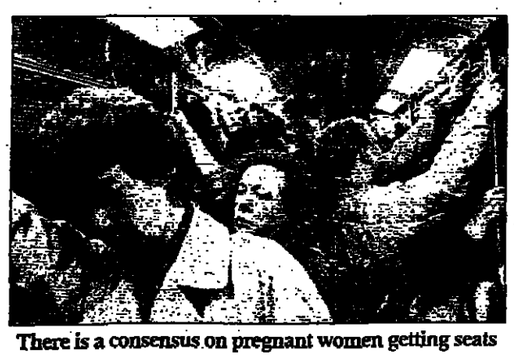
But it was the only defence she could muster, faced with a young man who had unthinkingly offered her his seat in a crowded Tube carriage. It was a reflex action on my part, a knee-jerk response (literally) born of careless breeding: see a woman without a seat, stand up and offer her yours. "I can stand up just as well as you," she barked. "I'm only 38, you know." The practice of offering one's seat away on the basis of chromosomes is something I have never questioned, like opening doors or walking on the outside of the pavement. Whether it was a "good" or "bad" thing didn't come into it. If I fail to open the car door for my mother, even now, she doesn't speak for the rest of the journey. But perhaps it is a worse offence to suggest that a woman is incapable of standing than to remain seated while she does so.

It is becoming more and more hazardous to offer that seat. I have about a one in three rejection rate on my offers, but I never ask why. On the Northern Line between Kentish Town and Bank, where it is arguably more hygienic to stand up anyway, I tried to go a little deeper.

There were half a dozen people standing and no available seats. A woman in her forties was standing in the aisle reading a book with a shiny cover. A man of about my age was sitting nearby reading a paper. I asked him why he didn't offer her his seat. "Didn't see her," he said. So why didn't he offer her the seat now?

"It's market forces," he explained. "I have paid to use the Tube, and if there's a seat for me there's a seat for me, I don't see why perfectly healthylooking women need to sit down any more than I do."

There was a general consensus that seats should be given up for pregnant women, the obviously old and decrepit, and people with broken limbs — but women were equally as likely to do that as men. (On the Paris Metro there is even a list of priority cases posted on the window, with *mutilés de guerre* just above *mutilés civils*, giving rise to a bizarre image of two one-legged men arguing over how they came by their amputation.) But is there no level at which gender comes into it?



There is a consensus on pregnant women getting seats

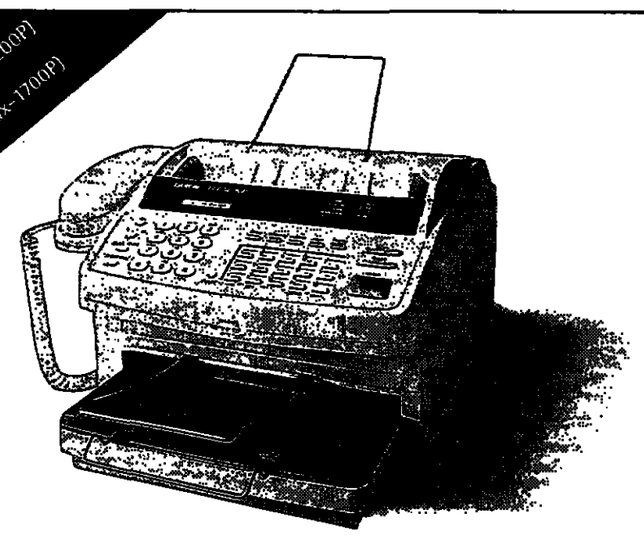
"I certainly hope not," said a student called Julie. "I think it is a bit of a liberty to use me as a vessel to show off your gallantry. It smacks of an age when being courteous to women was an excuse to mistreat them in other ways."

Another woman said that she always accepts a seat to save the man the embarrassment of being turned down — a complete reversal in the gallantry stakes.

One commuter, a Mr Meeker, put his point very bluntly. "If they wanted gallantry, they could have had gallantry," he declared. "But they can't go around claiming to be equal and then expect me to give them my seat as well. I am sure there are plenty of women who would be delighted to be offered a seat, but they're not the vociferous ones, are they? The feminists have ruined it for them. I'm not too happy with women going to work anyway, I don't want to make it even easier for them."

Wary of seeming to espouse similarly anti-feminist views, I now tend to say nothing, and just get up as if I feel like stretching my legs. If she wants to sit down she can sit down. No one is embarrassed, and no one is condescended to — the only worry is that Mr Meeker will slip in on my blind side.

But Mr Meeker aside, it is time for British women to come to the rescue of the nation's men. The age of chivalry is clearly dead, but men who still want to give it a bash should be encouraged. We are not needed to fight in wars any more, we do not have to go to dangerous places to prop up a crumbling Empire, there are no runaway horses for us to subdue, nor even dastardly communist plots for us to foil. We are in danger of superannuation. Can we not be allowed this little indulgence?



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Matthew Parris



■ For some people the performance has ended in acclaim, while for others it never really began

This story would be thought far-fetched were it to appear as fiction. You would say the poignancy was contrived. But it happened just so, last *Thursday night.*

In the late 1970s when Margaret Thatcher was Leader of the Opposition, I was sent by the Conservative Research Department to work in her Commons office as her correspondence clerk. A familiar figure in the central lobby in those days was a middle-aged gentleman — call him Mr Brown — who would wait there for hours, hoping for an appointment. He had written a book making poposals for the organisation of the world, and wished to discuss it with Mrs Thatcher. He had sent her the manuscript. He had even learnt some chapters by heart. Should she wish to discuss them, he was ready.

In some ways Mr Brown was a sort of Keith Joseph figure: learned, courteous, timid, though philosophically confident. But he never achieved the recognition Keith came to enjoy, and he had no money.

He sat in the lobby, week after week, never pushy or insistent. His suits grew gradually shabbier, but he remained a gentleman. You could guess his intelligence by his sharp eyes. He understood that Mrs Thatcher was too busy to see him, but he was on hand just in case she ever had time.

> Here was that stoical figure from the Commons lobby in a doorway in the Strand

She never did. She would have made time if I had asked her to, for she was unfailingly personally kind. But I did not suggest this because his desire was not to shake her hand and receive a friendly word, but to convince her of his case. She would not have been convinced. The lobby was a safe and warm place, the police there respected Mr Brown and were good to him, and he had his contemplations to entertain him. I thought it might be best for him for this to continue.

It has continued for nearly 20 years. I am not sure whom he now plans to see, but, older, thinner, greyer and (I am afraid) even poorer, he still comes often. I wrote about him here years ago, and it caused something of a falling-out between us, as he felt rather misrepresented; but he knows I admire him. I do not inquire into his personal circumstances but understand that he refuses to take any kind of welfare benefit, as he does not believe in socialism.

Last Thursday night I had planned to go to a concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, where the young pianist Ian Jones was playing Bach's Piano Concerto in D minor. But at 4pm *The Times* asked me to write a sketch about Baroness Thatcher's Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture, which began at 6.30, so I hurried to the City and found a place near the front, two rows behind Michael Portillo. Michael joined the Conservative Research Department not long before I was sent over to Mrs Thatcher's office. I watched Lady Thatcher, filled with nostalgia. I was there to describe her performance, but really the performance is over and these occasions are devoted mostly to the applause.

My sketch had to be written within half an hour, a stressful task. When it was telephoned through successfully from the debris of a now empty press reception room, I spotted a packet of crisps and a half-empty bottle of red wine. I consumed both. Still tense, I began a brisk walk to St Martin's: I should be late for the concert, but in time for Mr Jones's performance. I walked past St Paul's, down Fleet Street and along the Strand.

Passing Rymans, opposite Charing Cross Station, I saw a figure huddled in a shop doorway. It was Mr Brown. He had a box and a blanket, half a packet of crisps and a cup of tea. He was not begging, and soon recognised me when I joined him in the doorway. He explained that he had lost his house. In the roar of traffic I could not quite understand how. I stayed, talking.

Then a religious bigot came up and began screaming at us about damnation and stabbing at us with his fingers. Unwilling to leave Mr Brown in these circumstances, I sat with him. The bigot made off as four young men and women, one with cobwebs tattooed on her forehead and the others with cans of lager, arrived in our doorway. They ignored me. "Are you okay?" they asked Mr Brown. "We hang around here," one of the youths said to me. "We see he's all right. He's a gent."

I bade Mr Brown goodbye, in the care of better protection than I could afford, and hurried on to St Martin-in-the-Fields, entering to the sound of thunderous clapping. "He was excellent," someone whispered to me. Ian Jones's performance, too, was over, and I had arrived for the applause.

You can take it that Mr Brown is not short of offers of help. He does not want help any more than Keith Joseph did, and this story is not a parable about Thatcherism. It is not a parable about anything. It is not a parable. Keith is dead, and there is nothing to be done about Mr Brown. There is nothing to do be done about Mr Portillo, about the religious bigot, the tattooed girl, or me. There is certainly nothing to be done about Lady Thatcher. It all simply happened: and like most things which happen, it is without meaning.

Of course it's my job to know everything, M'lud — but who exactly are all these people?

This is a whole new ball game for me

It is hard for us as columnists to keep in mind the ignorance of many of our readers about subjects they are not interested in. Many readers are not interested in politics, economics or international relations, the subjects that I usually write about. I am not interested in contemporary pop music, football management or women's fashions. If I keep firmly in mind that Newt Gingrich means no more to many readers, even of *The Times*, than Terry Venables means to me, I shall no doubt offer a better service.

It is Terry Venables indeed who started me in this unaccustomed vein of introspection. What do I know about him? First of all, I know that he is famous, not as famous as the Princess of Wales, but probably about as famous as Hugh Grant, and he was already famous when Hugh Grant had not been heard of. I know that he has something to do with the England football team, soccer not rugger. He is not Will Carling, and if he has a wife, which I do not know, she is not the blonde young woman — it would be politically incorrect to call her a "girl" — who used to read the weather forecast, perhaps for ITN. Or maybe that was always someone else, and is perhaps now the young woman who is paid £500,000 to read out the lottery numbers.

I do not know exactly what Terry Venables does for the English football side. I thought he was the manager, but I heard him called the coach, though I had always supposed that those were two different personages. At all events, he is going to stop doing it, though he has been doing it quite well. He will stop in the summer. There has been some kind of a row about his giving up the job, but I am not clear what this row is about. The people who run the Football Association, if that is the correct name for Terry Venables's employers, are not the same as the people who run rugby football, because they are Will Carling's lot. The FA board are not therefore "old farts", but being middle-aged men running a young man's sport, they probably count as honorary old farts, as I do myself, and are almost certainly in the wrong about something, if not about everything.

Terry Venables himself seems to be middle-aged, to judge by his pictures on television. I suppose when he was young he played football for some club, since almost all football managers are ex-footballers. I have no idea for which club he played, but I presume it was not Grimsby Town, which would not have been grand enough for young Terry. Perhaps he scored the winning goal in the (suppositious) Cup Final when Chelsea beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-3 in extra time in 1962. That is the sort of thing football commentators remember, but I do not.

He must have been born somewhere. Did he learn his football among the lowering slag heaps of Derbyshire? Or within the sound of Bow Bells? There is so much relevant detail which I do not know, but might have read in some profile. He is the sort of man who used to be profiled in *The Observer* to give that newspaper the common touch of the Hampstead intellectual who is interested in football. At some point Terry Venables became a businessman. He does not seem to be as good at business as he is at coaching soccer elevens, because he is now going to spend the autumn in litigation about business matters and in libel suits. I must myself be careful, for anyone who likes suing for libel is capable of suing me for defamation, slander, malice, criminal libel, contempt of court, *scandalum magnatum* or piracy on the high seas. Did I call Terry Venables an "old fart"? Not at all, M'lud. I said that all his enemies and ill-wishers, whosoever and wheresoever they might be, belonged to that camp and classification.

William Rees-Mogg

Yet even that is not safe. I seem to remember that Terry Venables does have a great enemy, who plays Caesar to his Pompey — the Roman general not the football club — called Alan Sugar. I am supposed to know about him because he is a real businessman. His trademark is designer stubble, just as Richard Branson's is balloons. His company is called Amstrad, and it sells low-cost computers, or used to do so. Alan Sugar has rows with people, and had a row with Terry Venables over something or another, after a period of amity and friendship in which, I think, Alan and Terry were as brothers.

In any case, I wish to make it clear, in the face of the court, that I have never suggested that Mr Sugar, whom I hold in the highest esteem, is an old fart, or that he has ever met Will Carling, or that he has read the weather forecast for Tyne Tees Television, or that he is other than the peaceful and wholly admirable character that, gentlemen and ladies of the jury, you see before you.

I do, at this point, know something. I have at least one hard fact to offer. Mr Venables and Mr Sugar had their quarrel over Tottenham Hotspur, a London football club. Tottenham Hotspur plays at White Hart Lane. The White Hart was the heraldic badge of his late Majesty, King Richard II, son of the Black Prince and grandson of King Edward III, the founder of the Order of the Garter. Richard was overthrown by the usurper, King Henry V, from whom the bogus Lancastrian claim to the throne was derived. William Shakespeare wrote a play about these events. All Tottenham Hotspur supporters are therefore loyal Yorkists, in terms of the War of the Roses. I imagine that this may have been the issue on which Mr Venables and Mr Sugar fell out. Mr Venables would be the true Yorkist and Mr Sugar might favour the usurper. Query: did Henry V wear designer stubble?

There is nothing like healthy and extensive ignorance. The world becomes a fog, through which strange and exotic figures appear and into which they disappear. One should not actually see these people, if one can avoid it. Before Christmas, I went to a party at Tiffany's where Elizabeth Hurley was pointed out to me. She was a good-looking young woman wearing black sou-wester trousers. I now have a series of associations between Miss Hurley and the trawler fleet, and thence on to the wickedness of the European fisheries policy. Perhaps Terry Venables also has a view about cod quotas and the Irish Box. I would like Terry Venables, Elizabeth Hurley, Alan Sugar, Hugh Grant, Richard Branson, Will Carling and Mrs Will Carling — whoever she may prove to be — all to dress up in sou-westers and drop barrels of rotten herrings on the lawn of President Scalfaro at the Quirinal in Rome. That would make a good photo-opportunity, and it might please the Cornish fishermen as well.

Away from social chaos

Governments must soothe our insecurities too, argues

Peter Riddell



Baroness Thatcher asked the right question, but gave an answer for the 1980s, not the 1990s. John Major has so far offered only a partial answer. Tony Blair has provided an appealing answer, but one which raises many other questions. Since the new year, British politics has stumbled into a serious debate about ideas.

The question, identified by Lady Thatcher on Thursday, is that the Tories are unpopular now "above all because the middle classes — and all those who aspire to join the middle classes — feel they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government". But her explanation that this is because the Government is spending, borrowing and taxing too much is flawed. Of course, people would like taxes to be lower. But the disillusionment of the middle classes, Middle England or whatever, reflects deeper worries, brought to the surface by the recession of the early 1990s. For the first time, that produced the shock of widespread redundancy even in successful companies and the public sector, in Tory heartlands of the South as well as Labour strongholds in the North. The Thatcher Governments' attempts to give people a direct stake, through the big increase in home-ownership, has turned sour for many new or aspiring members of the middle class.

These insecurities have not disappeared with the recovery. "Downsizing", that horrible euphemism, remains a fear for many managers, as companies strive to cut costs in the face of intensified international competition. Other changes have left many unskilled people, particularly men, at the margins of the labour market, either permanently unemployed or with only a series of temporary, part-time jobs.

The leaders of the main parties accept that these international economic pressures are not going to disappear, nor should they be resisted. There is no serious support for protectionism, unlike in, say, France or America. The real question is how the consequences of these global economic forces can be made socially and politically acceptable. Lady Thatcher misses the point. Curbing, or even cutting, the burden of public spending and taxation may be a necessary condition for economic success, hard though she found it to achieve, but this alone does not address, and may even increase, people's insecurities.

John Major's Government has put all its money on making Britain competitive — making it, to use its not very catchy mantra, the enterprise centre of Europe. Rather like the stakeholding society, this slogan is an umbrella covering a whole range of policies from encouraging wealth-creation, through deregulation and reducing burdens on business, to containing spending and taxes, and promoting training and skills. Only the Tories can, they argue, achieve these aims, since Labour is inhibited by its high-spending, high-tax instincts, its trade union links, attachment to the social chapter, a minimum wage and so on.

Senior ministers recognise — in the words of Stephen Dorrell, the rising hope of the Tory Centre-Left — that the "necessity for us to make a full-blooded commitment to a process of constant and quickening change creates a conflict for the politicians when the voters are yearning for a stability which they believe they have lost". His answer to these anxieties is to rebuild voters' confidence in economic stability: "stable prices, secure savings and dynamic businesses are the guarantors of our prosperity."

But the virtuous hair-shirt and low inflation are not enough. As Kenneth Clarke recognised in his Mais Lecture in mid-1994, the State has a role in reducing the fears created by such changes. Worried voters need to be reassured that if they lose their jobs, their pensions will have some value and be transferable; that proper unemployment insurance will be available so that they are not forced into mortgage arrears and losing their houses; and that training schemes are more than just ways of massaging the unemployment figures. The State does not need to provide such services itself, but as a regulator it should ensure that they offer proper protection, to prevent repetition of the problems in some personal pension schemes. This is not putting a brake on change, but making it acceptable.

Mr Blair has recognised this challenge with his idea of a stakeholder society. He accepts global economic change and many of the Thatcher tax and trade union reforms, while differing from the Tories over the role of government in promoting competitiveness in partnership with business. But in addition, and like Mr Clarke, he stresses today's greater social insecurity. Societies should not be divided into a secure and prosperous top part and an unskilled, undereducated and vulnerable bottom part. Everyone should have a chance and no one should be left out of a thriving economy.

The stakeholder society fills the vision gap, enabling Mr Blair to "tell a story" of how Britain would change, an essential part of any successful political campaign. It is intended as a "unifying theme", rather than as a detailed blueprint. But in face of Tory attacks, Mr Blair has distanced himself from the proposals of some stakeholder-advocates for new laws changing the ways businesses are regulated, and broadening the responsibilities of directors to groups other than just shareholders. Rather than legislation, he envisages relying on the goodwill of companies to be more socially responsible, to employees and consumers. Similarly, he stresses that there would be no corporate State giving formal powers to "unions and women's co-operatives".

Behind the rhetoric of empowerment, inclusiveness and similar "warm words" lie the existing Labour "welfare-to-work" plans to cut youth and long-term unemployment, and provide advice and training for the self-employed and high-quality education for all. As the Tories have pointed out, the concept also involves shifting costs from the State, and hence taxpayers, to businesses (via the minimum wage and a training levy) and to individuals (via possibly higher compulsory pension contributions).

The contrast between Tory and Labour can be characterised as the difference between a belief that economic growth creates social cohesion and the belief that social cohesion is a necessary precondition for economic growth. The preliminary skirmishes have shown that Mr Blair has picked an attractive, if bland, concept, but needs to do much more to explain its implications, whereas Mr Major has so far addressed only half the question. Competitiveness is necessary but not sufficient to win back the middle classes. Insecurity also matters.

Captivated

TWITCHERS are, well, twitching with excitement at a report in the latest *British Birds* magazine. The news concerns Tim Cowley, the birdwatching British Embassy aide who was held hostage for four months last year by a guerrilla group in Colombia and was rescued in December.

Cowley reports that, although he was held captive high in the Quebrada de San José, he was well treated and that his captors allowed him to use his binoculars for bird-watching. It was one of his most successful ever counts.

"Tim recorded 88 species while held hostage," reports the magazine, "including 29 personal 'lifers', and six species new to the region." Highlights included a tolima dove, an olive-headed brush-finch, a flock of 40 or 50 gold-plumed parakeets and two groups of yellow-eared parrots. Sadly, all his notes were lost as he was rescued.



Cowley: great spotter

More chums

AFTER my discovery of the 1940s television Just William and the inspiration for Violet Elizabeth last week, another of the Outlaws has emerged. Douglas, the lugubrious member of William's gang, has been traced to Westcliff-on-Sea. Nicholas Bennett, the former government minister, was researching a book on Ealing Films, and tracked down James Crabb, now an insurance salesman, to talk to him about his role in *Hue and Cry*, when he realised he had found "Douglas".

Crabb remembers typical Outlaw jolly japes when the cameras stopped rolling. "I was about thirteen when I made *Just William's Luck* in 1947," he recalls. "We were filming on location when we sneaked off during lunch and found a pond to swim in. We leapt in, stark naked, and forgot the time and discovered people had been looking for us for ages. The director was furious."

Untolled joy

THE islanders of Skye, rather than pay tolls to use the new road bridge to the mainland, have taken to drink. The profits from a new beer, Extortion Ale, will be used to pay the fines of those still refusing to stump up the £4.30 toll.

It is a canny wheeze on the part of the Skye Brewery Company, which is producing the beverage. It will be exported to the rest of Scotland across the bridge by untollable horse-and-cart and wheelbarrow. Having sunk £9 million into the £25 million bridge, the Government might care to remember that not so long ago it also shelled out tens of thousands in grants to help establish a certain small business — the Skye Brewery Company.

Screened out

A DOGFIGHT is on to keep the bulldozer from the birthplace of one of the most important inventions in British military history.

Petersham Vicarage, in south-west London, was the scene of the development of radar in the 1930s, and the prototype transmitters were perched on its roof.

Now the Crown Estate Commissioners plan to demolish it and bring in the Prince of Wales's architectural pal, the neo-classicist Quinlan Terry, to construct a new house. But heritage and historical groups have locked onto the Victorian building's importance.

Richmond councillors rejected the scheme but the Crown Estate commissioners decided to dig in and won a public inquiry, which starts this week.

"The building has a very interesting history. It would be quite wrong to knock it down," says Councillor Serge Lourie. "We plan to replace an unlisted, redbrick Victorian building with an exceptional one," counter the commissioners. Battle lines are drawn.

The Bruise

THE Scottish Borders resounded to the blood-curdling cries of the Battle of Bannockburn at the weekend. Scores of extras waded through lochs of tomato ketchup during filming of the latest historical epic, *The Bruce*, starring Oliver Reed, Brian Blessed and Wolf, the preposterous Gladiator.



However, this was no mere re-enactment of the 1314 conflict, more a re-enactment of the re-enactment. Producers had decided that the original footage of the slaughter of the auld enemy, shot last year, was not gory enough, and ordered a bloodier re-run. "My nickname now is 'Dave the Blood' because I have poured so much dummy blood over everyone," said David Churchill, a weary make-up artist.

● *One wonders where Roy Hattersley finds time to launch his broadsides against Tony Blair's new Labour, so ubiquitous are his interrogations and reviews of others in the press. But today Labour's erstwhile deputy leader embarks on another exciting new adventure — as TV critic of the* Daily Express.

Miner trouble

SOMETHING OF a change of scene for the elfin actress Tara Fitzgerald. She has been filming in Yorkshire, behind tight security, after threats of firebomb attacks against the crew of *Brassed Off*. She found the streets of Grimethorpe patrolled by youths carrying half-bricks, and she told *Classic FM* magazine: "It makes me feel I come from another, soft part of the world."



Tara: threatened

Although she is more used to appearing on our screens a little underdressed, she has been fully wrapped up for her grimy role in the film about a brass band in a community devastated by the closure of the mine. Still, amid all the threats in the former pit village, she has at least learnt to play the flugelhorn.

P·H·S

صكذا من الاصل

TOKYO SWORDS

A battle looms — with implications well beyond Japan

The Japanese have just finished celebrating, if that is the right word, the holiday period which they call "forgetting the year". Rarely have the prayers for a clean break been so fervent: the book of 1995 contained Japan's worst chapter of misery since the postwar recovery began.

The yen soared, inflicting further punishment on Japan's faltering economy. Then came the Kobe earthquake, and the poison gas attacks that led to the uncovering of the sinister designs of the Aum Shinrikyo sect. The year ended with the announcement of a deeply unpopular scheme to spend $4.2 billion of public money to bail out investors, mostly Japan's cosseted farmers, who lost their shirts when Japan's housing loan corporations went into well-deserved insolvency after the bubble of property prices burst. Worse may follow; this is only one, relatively minor, aspect of Japan's biggest banking crisis since the 1920s. To cap it all, Japan's political leadership appeared, in the inept hands of the ageing and powerless Socialist Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, to be even weaker than its economic miracle.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's new Prime Minister, has an aura of authority about him which is enough in itself to lift the national mood somewhat. But the sense of relief that he brings may not last long. Mr Hashimoto, a tough talker whose popularity soared when he successfully fought off American demands in trade talks last year, is expectd to lead Japan decisively back to sustainable prosperity. As a known practitioner of *kendo*, the martial art played with wooden swords, Mr Hashimoto looks the part of bold reformer; but his instincts lie with the status quo, and instinct will be reinforced by his political strategy, which is to avoid elections until he estimates that his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is poised to regain the dominance of Japanese politics which it enjoyed until 1993. He is unlikely to risk the ire of powerful bureaucrats, let alone the retailers and farmers who form the backbone of traditional LDP support, by championing the deregulation that Japan needs.

The real novelty in Japanese politics will lie in the certainty that his every move will be powerfully challenged by another charismatic figure, Ichiro Ozawa — the contrastingly radical politician whose defection brought about the LDP's fall back in 1993. Mr Ozawa, who heads the opposition New Frontier Party, has denounced the backroom deals that ushered in the Hashimoto Government and is bent on forcing early elections. When they take place, which could be as early as this summer, Japanese voters will at long last have a choice between two sharply different political philosophies.

Mr Ozawa is the author of a book, *Blueprint for a New Japan*, which lives up to its ambitious title. He says that Japan will not be a "normal country" until it makes a bonfire of bureaucratic controls and learns the arts of individual responsibility. He wants Japan to become a low-tax, laisser-faire economy, open to competition; and also a democracy in which consumers and voters are king. Mr Hashimoto, by contrast, would settle for growth without real political change, relying mainly on classic Keynesian pump-priming. His plans centre on public works. He is right that these are overdue: Japan's cramped cities, for example, still lack such basic amenities of a rich society as universal access to sewers. But they will not unclog Japan's bureaucracy.

This Thursday, the two parties hold their conventions, raising the curtain on a power struggle between these two men whose like Japan has not seen in living memory. The LDP is well ahead of Mr Ozawa's party, but Mr Ozawa is a brilliant political strategist. Mr Hashimoto is vulnerable to determined attack — not least because, as the Finance Minister between 1989 and 1991 who should have reined in the runaway housing loan corporations but failed to do so, he can hardly escape blame for the unpopular rescue package. The Hashimoto-Ozawa battle is now set to dominate Japanese public life. In politics if in little else, this shows that Japan is already becoming the "normal country" of Mr Ozawa's dreams.

AN IRA OFFER

Mitchell's mediating team is closing gaps

Beneath the clatter of verbal fire which accompanies every negotiation on Northern Ireland, one key position may have shifted — and in the right direction. This Thursday, Senator George Mitchell and his two fellow referees are due to deliver their proposals on how the deadlock over decommissioning IRA arms might be resolved. The parties are still divided and compromises are hard. But the differences have been shrunk by the very existence of mediators and by their steady probing of both positions.

The IRA's insistence that it will not "surrender" and that soldiers and policemen should disarm at the same time is melting away in face of its own foolishness. The IRA has never been invited to humiliate itself but to give convincing guarantees that it will seek to persuade people by democratic means alone. The "demand" for security force weapons to be given up at the same time has been undermined by the idiocy of the implied equivalence and by the fact that fewer police and military weapons are visible with each week of unbroken peace.

The IRA's fantasy agenda created for the airwaves has given way to a slow but clear acceptance of two out of the three so-called "Washington Principles". These three British conditions for the opening of all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future call for the IRA to show a willingness to disarm, for the Government and Sinn Fein to agree on how decommissioning would occur and for some arms to be put out of use before political talks can start.

Sinn Fein's paper to Senator Mitchell suggests that instead of dumping arms to be collected by the authorities, the IRA might destroy their own caches. A picture of how violence might eventually be shut down has finally emerged from the organisation which does the killing. Sinn Fein's document hints that independent verification of weapons destruction would be acceptable. This proposal is similar to one option which the British Government also put to Senator Mitchell, albeit accompanied by a warning that the public safety and verification rules would need attention.

The IRA has thus slid gently towards accepting the principle of decommissioning; its plans broadly overlap with a scheme which London does not rule out. If London can satisfy itself that the arrangements for verification are watertight, arms will be taken out of commission. Precisely who destroys them and how is secondary. If IRA pride requires do-it-yourself decommissioning, no additional risks need be run by agreeing to this change. Two of the three Washington Principles are satisfied.

That leaves "Washington Three": the requirement that some decommissioning occur before all-party talks. This is the hardest knot which Senator Mitchell has been asked to untie, because it is inherently political. All-party talks without Northern Ireland's Unionists will mean little and lead nowhere. The Unionists still smell a trap in the latest concession from Sinn Fein and remain wary. But David Trimble, their energetic leader, is busy suggesting additional forums for discussion designed to defuse the problem. Some Sinn Fein officials seem sympathetic. A small patch of common ground is visible. The work of those discussions of the future will be the breaking of the terrorist principle which has warped Northern Ireland's politics out of all natural shape. Intellectual decommissioning is the most important decommissioning of all.

DRESS FOR DINNER

Virgin olive oil and the middle-class mind



A worldwide shortage of olive oil would once have mattered as little to our cooks and diners as a dearth of asafoetida, biltong or cloudberries. But nothing has changed so much in recent times, not even the Labour Party, as have the customs in our kitchens. Now, reports of impending olive oil scarcity are more likely to induce alarm, even panic-buying at supermarkets of this most Mediterranean of modern obsessions.

A shortage of the golden-green stuff, make no mistake, is upon us: and the implications are not trivial. Olive oil, available not so long ago only at Boots the Chemist — for such vital purposes as cleaning wax from small boys' ears — is now a supermarket staple. Where once we fried in fat, dripping and lard, we now drizzle our food with olive oil: on salad (rocket, of course), in fresh fish, aubergines, lamb and lentils, we use this lubricant liberally, both for its finer taste and for the better health it brings us. And where previous generations — going back, in some cases, a long way — came to adopt tea, coffee, chocolate and wine, the present generation is coating itself in olive oil.

With the exception of Paul Gascoigne, who acquired a fondness for Mediterranean cuisine while playing poorly for Lazio, the taste for the oil is largely a middle-class matter. In fact, no definition of that class would now be complete if it failed to take account of olive oil — the cooking-medium and salad-dressing seems as much a social determinant as educational and professional accomplishment, or sensible moral values.

The widespread belief that John Major is losing the support of the country's middle classes — and that Tony Blair is gaining it — may be due more to the following reason than to any other. Mr Blair gives the unmistakable impression that he is the sort of chap who uses olive oil daily: this makes him a man one can relate to. Forget "stakeholders" and other kinds of political dripping, just look at what the man dips his ciabatta into. Mr Major looks and sounds as if he has never tasted a single-estate Tuscan oil in his life. Warm ale and warm butter are out, say the swing voters. They want Olive Oil Man.

There is no evidence, of course, that a regular diet of olive oil makes for more efficient governance: look at Italy, Spain and Greece. Mr Major, in fact, might turn the bottle on his Labour opponent by smearing him with Islington's favourite. "Do you really want a man who fries his fish in olive oil?" he might tell a crowd in Basildon or Barnsley. "No!" they will cry, in great derision. Meanwhile, in Islington and Isleworth they will scurry to the nearest supermarket to stock up for the drier days ahead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Royal prerogative on BBC selection

From Mr Leonard Miall

Sir, The suggestion by Sir Paul Fox (letter, January 11) that the chairman of the BBC should be chosen from a list approved by a group of senior Privy Counsellors representing all parties, rather than nominated by the government of the day, is wise. It would also close a notable gap between theory and practice.

The chairman of the BBC, which has a royal charter, cannot be removed from office for political reasons. He is appointed by the Queen in Council, that is to say by the Monarch with at least four Privy Counsellors present, rather than directly by the Government. This important distinction has again been overlooked.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home made a point of consulting the Opposition before recommending to Her Majesty that Lord Normanbrook should be the next BBC chairman. This was the last time such a consultation occurred.

When Harold Wilson's plan to switch Lord Hill of Luton overnight from the Independent Television Authority to the BBC as Normanbrook's successor leaked, the appointment was immediately announced from 10 Downing Street.

The luckless Postmaster-General, Edward Short, had to pretend that the Queen had appointed Hill at an emergency meeting of the Privy Council held in her box at Goodwood races that afternoon. In fact she was put in the invidious position of having to rubber-stamp Hill's already announced appointment at a regular Privy Council meeting at Buckingham Palace two days later.

Marmaduke Hussey's first appointment as BBC chairman was also given out from Downing Street before a recommendation had been sent to the Privy Council.

And now they have done it again! Virginia Bottomley, who only has the power to *recommend* the appointment of Sir Christopher Bland, has arrogantly usurped the Queen's prerogative by announcing it as a *fait accompli* (report, January 10) before it has even been submitted to the Queen in Council.

This is discourteous, if not *lèse-majesté*.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD MIALL,
Maryfield Cottage, High Street,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire.
January 13.

From Mr John Wilkinson

Sir, Sir Paul Fox suggests that a senior all-party group of Privy Counsellors should be empowered to see a list of suitable candidates and then make the appointment. This is already the constitutional position in the 1981 charter: the chairman and all the governors of the BBC are appointed by the Queen in Council on the advice of the Government.

Traditionally, the Prime Minister always consulted the Leader of the Opposition first. This has not happened in recent years, with resultant suspicions that political appointments are being made.

Apart from the risk to the independence of the BBC, prime ministerial appointments without consultation are unfair to the chairman and governors, particularly when they have to demonstrate political impartiality.

Yours sincerely,
JOHNNY WILKINSON
(Secretary to the BBC, 1977-80),
Compass Cottage,
Box, Minchinhampton,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.
January 13.

Seeking relief from the misfortunes of the 'fourth age'

From the Chairman of Research into Ageing

Sir, Your timely series, "The science of ageless ageing" (January 8-11), could with advantage have given greater emphasis to the benefits which research can bring.

For those of our members who are approaching the "fourth age", having successfully negotiated their sixth and seventh decades, it is not ageing *per se* that is of concern: it is the likehood of the onset of debilitating diseases and disabilities that destroy quality of life and independence.

High priority must be given to challenging dementia, blindness, incontinence, immobility and the other afflictions of old age. The scientists and medical professionals require greatly increased financial support in order to conduct the research which will help to ensure that the increasing number of 80, 90 and 100-year-olds *enjoy* their extra years.

May we also take you up on one point of detail. Macular degeneration — the loss of central vision — does not necessarily result in blindness, as implied in "Why sight fades with time" (January 10). Sufferers retain peripheral vision, but they can become registered as blind, which helps them to gain access to supplies, services and benefits. Devices are available which can make the most of the remaining vision, helping particularly with reading and watching television.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS GRIFFIN, Chairman,
Research into Ageing,
Baird House,
15-17 St Cross Street, EC1.
January 11.

From Mr C. H. Naylor

Sir, Many surgeons are worried by the statistics which show an increased incidence in cancer of the breast among women who take hormone replacement therapy following the menopause and indicate that the risk increases with the duration of the therapy (article, January 11).

However, the commonest cause of death following the menopause is a heart attack. It is generally accepted that HRT significantly protects a woman from dying from a heart attack. Therefore it follows that women taking HRT will live longer. In these extra years death from other conditions such as cancer of the breast will become more apparent.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. NAYLOR
(Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist),
116 Harley Street, W1.
January 11.

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Jane Gordon looks in pretty good shape to me, no matter which part of middle age she assumes herself to be in ("The older woman's tale", January 8). I was sad to read her self-deprecation; for what may have been lost in youthfulness is surely made up for by the comforts of maturity.

Even more sad was the plight of 16-year-old Dominic, described as sitting on a hot day last summer in a graffiti-covered "Love Shack", its floor littered with empty cans of beer and abandoned packets of cigarettes.

What will be left of Dominic's youthfulness when he is Jane Gordon's age? Even more pertinent, will he still be around?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village, Bodelwyddan, Clwyd.
January 8.

From Mr Philip Dinnage

Sir, All this talk of hormone replacement therapy and libido.

There is an alternative cocktail available, which can be taken several times a day. Affection, warmth, support, praise, kisses and caresses. Free but, sadly, often in short supply.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DINNAGE,
10 Gorings Mead, Horsham, Sussex.

Making light of it

From Mrs Jane Crease

Sir, I think it rather hard that you should illustrate your article of January 11 on the benefits of water to the ageing process with a photograph of a model who must surely be in her teens. I would be more persuaded if the figure leaping athletically in her swimsuit were a granny of 70.

Yours faithfully,
JANE CREASE,
Deer Park, Scampston,
Malton, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Peter McGregor

Sir, When I was a young man I was sometimes rather surprised by what respondents to surveys of male sexual activity said they could do. Now that I am an old man I am *very* surprised about what they say they cannot do ("Men can recover the passion of youth", January 9).

Yours faithfully,
PETER McGREGOR,
Dacre Cottage,
Longworth, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Cedric Hayes

Sir, I was gratified to read today that at my age, I am capable of sexual union once a week. All I need now is the opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC HAYES,
14 Thurleigh Road,
Didsbury, Manchester.
January 9.

Labour's latest words and policies

From Mr George Scales

Sir, Frank Field, MP ("Staking a claim to power", January 9; see also letters, January 11 and 13), asks whether "stakeholding" is just another buzzword. Sadly, yes. It has merely replaced the 1945 original Labour buzzword "nationalisation" which many believed could replace capitalism without sacrificing efficiency.

Workers, trade union leaders and Labour politicians all believed that public ownership would remove the "them-us" stigma, avoid the need to strike and offer workers the incentive they needed to increase productivity.

It did none of those things: the abuse of power by the bosses was replaced by the abuse of power by the unions, productivity fell to an all-time low and the number of strikes became an international object of scorn. Stakeholding will fail for the same reason nationalisation did: it offers rewards for success but no penalties for failure.

Big wins on the lottery are only possible if there are also millions of lottery losers. Privatising the nationalised industries and allowing council tenants to buy their properties at a fraction of their market value, far from selling off the family silver, was in fact returning to taxpayers the money taken from them. Tony Blair should repeat 100 times the North Country saying, "You can't get owt for nowt".

Yours etc,
GEORGE SCALES,
Cobbler's Pieces,
Abbess Roding, Ongar, Essex.

From Mr Andrew Harris

Sir, I enjoyed Simon Jenkins's amusing and skilfully written piece, "Tony joins the Tiger Party" (January 6). But he treats an important subject too flippantly.

Our admiration for oriental business skills is not a transient fashion. If it were, how is it that Japanese and other Pacific Rim interests already own large chunks of the British economy? There is more to the Orient than a few small islands — Mr Jenkins gives the enormous Japanese economy hardly a mention. In particular I dispute his implied premise that we have a choice between rapid economic growth *à la* Pacific Rim, or more leisurely growth as in Europe.

The extra costs associated with European cultural values, of which Mr Jenkins makes much, are making us increasingly uncompetitive. This will not lead to Mr Jenkins's comfortable slow growth, but to a very uncomfortable period of negative growth.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW HARRIS,
10 Evertons Close,
Droitwich, Worcestershire.

From Mr David Tipping

Sir, It matters not to me whether the water between Tory and Labour is red, blue or clear. I hope only that both parties will jump into it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TIPPING,
11 Ardilaun Road, N5.

Far-flung land sales

From Mrs Christine Buckley

Sir, An appropriate project for "heritage" lottery funds might be the purchase of Land's End and John o'Groat's, now for sale at a price of £5.5 million (report, January 8). They should then be given to their respective National Trusts, with endowments sufficient to make Land's End a site of which Britain can be proud (it wasn't when I last saw it, a few years ago).

We should not allow these sites to be in the hands of those whose only management principle is their own profit.

Yours,
CHRISTINE BUCKLEY,
55 Quarry Lane,
Halesowen, West Midlands.

From Mrs Frank White

Sir, The sale of Land's End and John o'Groat's may be the last opportunity for these two far-flung promontories to be put under secure and dignified guardianship.

This would please not only those of us who love walking, and have visited both these well-loved sites. It would, I guess, please the many millions for whom the phrase "from Land's End to John o'Groat's" is a part of the British psyche, uniting all the people of the British Isles and reflecting our common heritage, yet mirroring the diversity of our backgrounds.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE WHITE,
8 Queen's Ride, SW13.
January 8.

Trust House memories

From Mr Patrick Cox

Sir, In all the press coverage of the Granada bid for Forte (letters, January 13) I have read little concerning present or future customers of the hotels and eating-places involved.

I recall with fond memories the old Trust House and the merger with Forte and subsequent absorption by them. Customers were not pleased with the resultant cutting of staff, portions and corners by a group built up from a milk bar, so we believed.

History is now repeating itself. Fortunately there are other establishments for us punters to patronise.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK COX,
Hollyburn, Bankfoot, Perth.

Lines of inquiry

From Dr Daniel Dorling

Sir, I am grateful to Mr Ben Olds (letter, January 9) for his interest in my research on the average lifespan of people according to the wealth in their locality, and am also glad that he has managed to amass some wealth himself.

However, a key finding of the research was that continuing to amass wealth over a certain level (approximately £40,000) displayed diminishing returns in terms of benefit to health.

Mr Olds expressed an interest in further research on the relationship between lifespan and living in inner cities or rural suburbs and by a person's profession. Evidence for both of these relationships is contained in my recently published *A New Social Atlas of Britain* (report, September 28, 1995).

Neither relationship appears to be as strong as that found with wealth, perhaps because one's location or profession are less accurate indicators of one's position in the social hierarchy than is wealth.

Almost no matter how you measure it, the rich tend to live longer lives than the poor, but the very rich tend not to benefit greatly from their additional wealth. It is thus not inconceivable that if we lived in a more equal society we would all, *on average*, live longer.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL DORLING,
University of Bristol,
Department of Geography,
University Road, Bristol, Avon.

Watch and ward

From Mr Peter H. Jackson

Sir, If, as you report on your Business pages on January 10, the Securities and Futures Authority's investigation into the Barings crash "is now complete but for crossing the i's and dotting the t's", one cannot but wonder what care the SFA exercises in the details of itsrole as the watchdog for brokers and futures traders.

Yours faithfully,
PETER H. JACKSON,
45 Great Notley Avenue,
Black Notley, Essex.
January 10.

Healing myrrh

From the Very Reverend Canon J. Cunnane

Sir, How pleasant that science validates (report, January 4) what has always been accepted in the East — ie, that myrrh has powerful health-giving properties.

Western Christians regard myrrh as foreshadowing Christ's death, because of its use in embalming, but Eastern Churches associate it with healing, and see it as symbolising Christ as healer of mankind.

This is manifest in Jerusalem's Old City, where the St Benedictos Polyclinic, by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, daily serves the medical needs of the poor. It is in the care of the Society of Myrrhbearers.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CUNNANE,
Church of Our Lady of the Taper,
Cardigan, Dyfed.

From Mrs Linda Bostock

Sir, I am a medical herbalist and use myrrh regularly when treating people, as it is an excellent wound healer and general antiseptic. The Romans used it for coughs, colds, catarrh and for deworming people.

I wonder whether the real meaning of the gifts the wise men brought was health, wealth and happiness. The wealth needs no explanation; myrrh is the gift of health: and frankincense has an ancient reputation for having a calming effect on emotions and was used to drive away evil spirits.

Yours sincerely,
LINDA BOSTOCK,
60 High Street, Slough, Berkshire.

During current postal difficulties readers are urged, if possible, to fax letters for publication to 0171-782 5046. Letters should carry a daytime telephone number.

From Professor Piero Dolara

Sir, Your report on our discovery of the analgesic activity of myrrh wrongly states that it took "more than five minutes" before the mice given myrrh in experiments in this clinical department felt pain from a hot metal plate.

In fact, the mice remained painless on the hot plate for an average of 14 seconds without the administration of myrrh, and for 19.4 seconds after it was administered.

In this type of test mice are never left on the plate for more than 40 seconds. This is in order to avoid unnecessary paw damage and pain.

Yours etc,
PIERO DOLARA,
University of Florence,
Department of Preclinical and Clinical Pharmacology,
Viale G. B. Morgagni,
50134 Florence, Italy.
January 11.

Wonder pills

From Mr Alexander D. Osborne

Sir, My wife has been prescribed pills. According to the accompanying leaflet, possible side-effects are: sickness, diarrhoea, indigestion, loss of appetite, belching, vertigo, abdominal cramps, dizziness, stomach ulcers, bleeding from intestine or bloody diarrhoea, ulcerative colitis, sore mouth and tongue, constipation, back pains, inflammation of pancreas, mouth ulcers, skin rashes, hair loss, sensitivity to sunlight, drowsiness, tiredness, impaired hearing, difficulty with sleeping, seizures, irritability, anxiety, depression, mood changes, tremor, memory disturbances, disorientation, changes in vision, ringing in ears, bad dreams, taste alteration, allergic reactions, swelling due to water retention, palpitations, impotence or tightness of the chest.

Should she take them?

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER D. OSBORNE,
19 Rickyard Meadow,
Redbourn, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 14: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe preached the sermon.

Mr Stephen Pocklington (Headteacher of Sandringham and West Newton Voluntary Aided Primary School) was received by Her Majesty when The Queen presented a Bible to Miss Isobel Ramsay for proficiency in Religious Instruction.

Princess Michael of Kent celebrates her 51st birthday today.

Birthdays today

Mr Robert Armstrong, racehorse trainer, 52; Mr Nick Ashley, designer, 39; Mrs Diana Barnato Walker, aviatrix, 78; Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, 53; Mr Chuck Berry, singer, 70; Mr Frank Bough, broadcaster, 63; Sir Neil Cossons, director, National Museum of Science and Industry, 57; Lord Dacre of Glanton, 82; Miss Jane Drabble, director of education, BBC, 49; Mr Anthony Forbes, joint senior partner, Cazenove and Company, 58; Mr Rowland George, oarsman and England's oldest Olympic gold medallist, 91; Mr Gareth Hale, comedian, 43; the Hon Mrs Justice Hogg, 49; Sir John Junor, journalist, 77; Mr Nicholas Knightly, fashion designer, 39; Professor Peter Maitlis, inorganic chemist, 63; Lord Simon of Glaisdale, 85; Professor Sir John Smith, QC, professor of law, 74; Mr John Terraine, author, 75; Sir John Wordie, barrister, 72.

Professor Anthony Raine

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Anthony Raine will take place at 3.30pm on Thursday, January 18, in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, London, EC1.

John Gordon Collier

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of John Gordon Collier, FRS, FEng, Chairman, Nuclear Electric plc, will be held at Gloucester Cathedral on Monday, January 22, 1996, at 2.30pm. For further details contact Maureen King on 01452 652822.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Molière, playwright, Paris, 1622; Louis de Rouvroy, Duc de St-Simon, diarist, Paris, 1675; Pierre Proudhon, socialist, Besançon, France, 1809; Lewis Terman, pioneer of IQ tests, Johnson County, Indiana, 1877; Mazo De La Roche, novelist, Ontario, 1885; Aristotle Onassis, shipping magnate, Smyrna, Turkey, 1906; Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, Nobel Peace laureate 1964, Atlanta, Georgia, 1929.

DEATHS: Emma Lady Hamilton, mistress of Lord Nelson, Calais, 1815; Fanny Kemble, actress, London, 1893; Matthew Brady, American Civil War photographer, New York, 1896; Sean MacBride, Irish statesman, Nobel Peace laureate 1974, Dublin, 1988.

Queen Elizabeth I was formally crowned Queen of England, 1559.

The British Museum opened at Montague House, London, 1759.

Forty people died when the ice broke on Regent's Park lake, London, 1867.

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, communist leaders, were murdered after the Spartacist uprising, Berlin, 1919.

The Aswan High Dam in Egypt was officially opened, 1971.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Bernard Everett, 52, formerly Consul General, Houston, to be High Commissioner to the Republic of Mozambique in succession to Richard Edis, who has transferred to a new Diplomatic Service appointment. He will take up his post soon.

Nature notes

SPRING behaviour is erupting among the birds. Male coots are fighting each other: a jealous bird speeds across the water like a rocket at its rival. Starlings are examining nest-holes in the tree-trunks, and sitting on a twig outside to sing when they have chosen one. Blue tits are calling excitedly and chasing one another through the boughs.

There are still many winter visitors around, however. Redwings are feeding in flocks on hawthorn berries: they are nervous birds, and the air around the bushes is full of individuals dashing off with wild, flickering wingbeats. Smews have arrived on large lakes: they are dumpy diving ducks from northern Scandinavia. The drakes are almost pure white with a black eye-patch, but most of the visitors here are the female, or immature birds, known as "red-heads" because of their chestnut caps.



The smew drake

There are silvery catkins on some sallow twigs, and the fat, orange buds on other twigs are filled with silvery fur waiting to burst out. On riverbanks, the large leaves of comfrey are still to be seen: by surviving the winter, they keep a space clear of rival plants for the spring.

DM

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J.W. Allen and Miss Zhang Zhang

The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Allen, of Hartfield, Sussex, and Zhang Zhang, daughter of Professors Zhang Jing-Wu and Zhang Mei-Qi, of Anhui Province, China.

Lieutenant I.G. Annett, RN, and Miss S.D. Pertwee

The engagement is announced between Ian Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs E.A.J. Annett, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Sophie Dominique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.N.F. Pertwee, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr S.R. Barstow and Mrs D.E. O'Bree

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of the late Mr R.G. Barstow and of Mrs Helen Barstow, of Whitchurch, Oxfordshire, and Diana O'Bree, of Dorchester, Oxfordshire, eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Alan Cleave.

Mr A.M.W. Dunn and Miss K.A. Daley

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Dunn, of Glasgow, and Kristen, daughter of Major and Mrs Thomas Daley, of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Mr J.M. Fraser and Miss S.E Coyne

The engagement is announced between James Munro, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel Ian M. Fraser, OBE, and Mrs Fraser, of Brechin, Angus, and Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Coyne, of Netherley, Aberdeen.

Mr D.C. Turner and Miss R.E. Bellamy

The engagement is announced between David Charles, second son of Mr and Mrs James Turner, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, and Rachel Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Bellamy, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N. Wakely and Miss L.S. Fielder

The engagement is announced between "Nat", eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wakely, of West Norwood, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Fielder, of Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Z. Zaman and Miss S.E. Morgan

The engagement is announced between Zia, only son of Mr and Mrs Shams Zaman, of Toronto, Canada, and Siân Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Morgan, of Erw Graig, Merthyr Mawr, Mid Glamorgan.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alexandra, as president, will attend a reception at the Mansion House at 6.30 to mark the 80th anniversary of the opening of The Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.

Royal Institute of International Affairs

The meeting which was to have been addressed by Dr Khalil Shikaki at 5.30pm on Tuesday, January 16, 1996, has been postponed to Monday, March 25, 1996, at 5.30pm.



SIMON WALKER

People's opera heads for its centenary

FIONA FAIRS, 10, centre above, and other members of the Finchley Children's Music Group of north London came together for a rehearsal of the centenary production of *La Bohème* at the Royal Albert Hall. The children, trained by volunteers, have performed with most of the big orchestras and at many of the major concert and opera venues. The £2 million arena production of *La Bohème*, probably the best loved opera of all, will be performed on seven occasions, starting on the actual centenary date of its first production in Turin. The impresario Raymond Gubbay hopes that the "people's opera", as Puccini's masterpiece of Bohemian life in 19th-century Paris became known, will entice and encourage the thousands who enjoy music from opera but who never go to opera houses. The production is directed by Michael Hunt and will feature some of the latest lighting and rigging technology to ensure that every seat in the Albert Hall will have a good view. The BBC Concert Orchestra will be conducted by James Lockhart. The two casts will include Katerina Kudriavchenko and Susan Bullock (as Mimi) and José Azocar and Arthur Davies (as Rodolfo).

Schools news

Bedstone College

Boarders returned yesterday for commencement of the Spring term. The Scholarship Examinations take place on Monday, March 4. The College's production of *South Pacific* will take place in the Rees Hall Theatre at 7.30pm on the evenings of March 7, 8 and 9. Term ends on Saturday, March 23.

Cheltenham College

Term begins today at Cheltenham College and ends on Friday, March 22. The new Astroturf hockey pitch will be formally opened by Robert Thompson, OC, on Saturday, February 24. "24 Hours at Cheltenham" runs from Sunday, March 24, to Monday, March 25. Any eleven-year-old boys interested in attending should contact the Registrar. The 13-plus academic scholarship examinations will be held on February 26 to 28, and the second round of the 16-plus scholarship and entrance examinations will take place on March 8 and 9.

Douai School, Woolhampton

The Easter Term begins today at Douai School (co-educational). Captain of Soccer is Joe Midmore. An Open Day will be held on February 10 and Entry Tests for 10, 11 and 12-year-olds will take place on March 16. The Douai 7-a-side Rugby Tournament will take place on March 10. Term finishes on March 22 following the Lent Service in the Abbey Church.

Northbourne Park

The Spring Term begins today. Seven new members of staff join the team to reflect expanding pupil numbers. The Lady Northbourne prize for increased bilinguality will be awarded to two English and two French pupils in early March. The school choir will be performing in Brussels on April 19. The new whole-school computer network will be operational from today.

The Royal School, Hindhead

Spring Term starts today. Clare Cattell and Louisa Scoffham are Head Girls of the Senior School, and Danielle Sweet of The Grove Preparatory School. This Term sees the opening of the new Lacey building for the Preparatory School. The Senior School production of *Our Day Out* by Willy Russell will take place from Monday, March 11, to Thursday, March 14.

Wycombe Abbey School

The Spring Term at Wycombe Abbey School started on Wednesday, January 10. 1996 is Centenary Year, and there will be a full programme of events in celebration. Any friend of the school who has not yet received a copy of the Centenary Brochure should contact the school. The main events in the Spring Term are the Spring Concert on Sunday, February 25, a Recital by Yvonne Minton and Philippa Hyde, accompanied by Judith Connett, at the Royal College of Music on Wednesday, March 13, and the Clarence Play *Much Ado About Nothing* on March 15, 16 and 17. Term ends on Saturday, March 23.

Forces appointments

The Army

BRIGADIER: T Dalby-Welsh to be Comd HQ RLC Trg Gp & Deepcut Gar, 15.1.96; D J Wills to be Comd HQ (II) ARRC Sig Bde, 15.1.96.

COLONEL: G J Barrett to MoD, 15.1.96; N S Hunter to BLO Germany, 19.1.96.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL: A A A Beattie, PWRR, to HQ Inf, 15.1.96; the Hon A J C Campbell to be CO 3 Hldrs (V), 15.1.96; D F Palmer, R Signals, to R Sch of Sigs, 15.1.96; A S Paphitt, AGC (ALS), to 1(UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, 15.1.96; R P Russell, PWRR, to JSDC(DS), 15.1.96; P R P Swanson, PWRR, to MoD, 15.1.96; J E Thomas, R Signals, to RMCS, 16.1.96.

Retirement

COLONELS: P S Adams, late RE, 20.1.96; J S HOUCHIN, late R Anglian, 16.1.96; M A Orwin, late AAC, 16.1.96.

Royal Air Force

AIR VICE-MARSHAL B C McCandless to be Air Officer Communications and Information Systems at HQ Logistics Command from January 12, in succession to Air Vice-Marshal J B Main.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL P J O'Reilly to be president of the Ordnance Board from February 23, in succession to Rear Admiral M R Thomas.

GROUP CAPTAIN: D A Ray to HQ PTC, 20.1.96.

WING COMMANDER: M H Wood to HQ LC, 2.1.96; M A Jocelyn to HQ PTC, 2.1.96; I M Robertson to MoD, 2.1.96; H Stewart to HQ STC, 2.1.96; A R Winkles to DRA Malver, 2.1.96; I Capewell to HQ PTC, 2.1.96; K E Archer-Jones to HQ SC, 8.1.96; R Watson to HQ LC Wyton, 8.1.96; R M Harrison to Int Mil Staff, 15.1.96; B L Swain to HQ PTC, 15.1.96; P NASH to HQ STC, 15.1.96; M R Waring to RAF Cranwell, 15.1.96; D H Anderson to HQ STC, 16.1.96; D L Blomley to Namma Munich, 15.1.96; J A Broderick to HQ PTC, 15.1.96.

Retirement

AIR COMMODORE: T G Thorn, 28.12.95; D W Marchant, 1.1.96.

GROUP CAPTAIN: P L Graves, 18.1.96; J P Rodgers, 20.1.96.

WING COMMANDER: D A White, 18.1.96; P J Sowood, 20.1.96.

Latest wills

Major Sir Richard Rathbone Vassar-Smith, of Hawkhurst, Kent, former headmaster and senior partner of St Ronan's preparatory school, left estate valued at £631,315 net.

George Robert John, 6th Baron Harris, of Faversham, Kent, left £4,379,132 net. After several personal bequests he left the residue to the Harris (Belmont) Charity.

Mrs Patricia Kathleen Epstein, of London N6, left £7,959,621 net.

Gray's Inn

Robert Graham Marshall-Andrews, QC, David Roderic Notley Hunt, QC, John Anthony Roberts, QC, and John Edward Mitting, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn.

Sir Alister Kneller, the Hon Sir Joaquim Gonsalves-Sabola, Mme Noëlle Lenoir, Judge Gil Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias and the Hon Sir Anthony Campbell have been elected Honorary Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn.

Archaeology

The burnt village that lived on trade

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of a "burnt village" nearly 8,000 years old in northern Syria has disclosed an organised community with contacts reaching hundreds of miles into Anatolia and Mesopotamia. Clay seals and tokens hint at an early but well-developed system of economic administration.

The site, at Sabi Abyad in the upper valley of the Balikh, a tributary of the Euphrates close to the Turkish border, has been excavated since 1986 by Peter Akkermans and Marc Verboeven, of The Netherlands National Museum in Leiden. The recent season penetrated to a level of 5800-6000 BC and uncovered well-preserved buildings affected by a violent fire.

Among the finds were tools of flint, obsidian and ground stone, human and animal figurines, and hundreds of clay sealings made with button-shaped stamps. The designs included ibex or goats with long curving horns, plants, and geometric figures such as spoked wheels and chevrons. More than 60 different seals were identified.

Such seals are thought to indicate ownership, but since no goods were found at Sabi Abyad it is possible that the goods were produced and sealed elsewhere and imported to the village. "They presented a mode of communication in a stylised, symbolic manner," the investigators say.

Conical, cylindrical, and spherical "tokens", thought to have been used for counting, add to the impression of mercantile activity. Among imports identified so far are pottery from northern Mesopotamia and the Levant, and copper ore and stone implements from Anatolia. The wide distribution of the sealings across the site suggests that trade was general, not in the hands of an elite. Their quantity indicates "that foreign commodities came in very large numbers, either the result of reciprocal exchange or as tributes and gifts", the investigators claim.

They suggest that stockbreeding provided some of the goods, such as hides, and that surplus farm production underwrote the manufacture of textiles or other crafts.

The houses were large, with many small rooms, perhaps the homes of extended families: the striking regularity and planning recalls settlements such as Tell Bouqras on the Euphrates. "The Burnt Village is the most outstanding example of local community organisation known for this period, part of extensive networks of long and short-distance exchange," the excavators conclude.

The burnt village at Sabi Abyad marks a transition from simpler communities to more complex ones, from the villages which had marked early settlement in the Near East for centuries to the emergence of trade networks and the development of the first towns. Sabi Abyad seems also to have been a long-lived community, from which in the next few centuries other villages budded off to begin a recolonisation of abandoned areas.

Source: *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol 99, 5-32

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At the name of Jesus every knee should bow - in heaven, on earth, and in the depths, and every tongue acclaim, 'Jesus Christ is Lord', to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2 : 10 (REB)

BIRTHS

BOWEN-JONES - On January 7th 1996, to Victoria (nee Towneley) and Edward, a son, Rowland.

EVERINGTON - On January 5th, to Alison (nee Reynolds) and Guy, a son, William John Hunter, a brother for Madeleine. Absolutely delighted.

GRIFFIN - On January 6th 1996, to Louise and Ralph, a son, Charles Radclyffe David, a brother for Eleanor.

MacGWIRE - On January 7th, to Fiona (nee Bisset) and Rory, a son, Matthew Mor.

SEAGROVE - on January 11th, in Turramurra, Sydney, Australia, to Annabel (nee Jeffery) and David, a daughter Emily Frances, a sister to Isabella and Natalie

WORRALL - On 8th January, to Fiona and Michael, a daughter, Sasha Louise Cecilia

ZANELLI - On 12th January 1996 at the Portland Hospital at 9.50pm to Morgana Lara (née Giacometti) to Piero Zanelli, their first child, a beautiful daughter Michela, weighing 8lbs 13 ounces

ANNIVERSARIES

BATEMAN-TURNER - On 15th January 1951, at St Margaret's Westminster, Geoffrey Bateman to Margaret Turner. Congratulations and love from all the family

DEATHS

AXTON - Constance Mary, much loved wife of Harry Axton, mother of Louise and grandmother of Hope and James, on Friday 12th January 1996 at Chichester. Private Funeral - Immediate family only. No flowers but, if desired, donations to British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge St London W1H 4DH A Thanksgiving Service for her life will be held at 11.30am on Friday 9th February 1996 at St Mary's Church, Lavant, Chichester.

CHERRY - Professor Gordon E. died peacefully at home on 11th January 1996, aged 64 years. Beloved husband of Margaret, devoted father of Shona, Shelagh and Iain and much loved 'Gramps' of Jaimie, Alistair, Robert, Joshua and Kirsty. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving for Gordon's life at The Parish Church, Hampton-in-Arden on Thursday 18th January at 3 pm. No black by request. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to the Marie Curie Cancer Care or CRAB Appeal (Institute for Cancer Studies, University of Birmingham) both c/o Thomas Bragg & Sons Ltd., 662 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4AY

CLARIDGE - On January 11th, peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Gordon David. Father of Bruce, Timothy, Peta and Robin, and Grandfather of Phillipa and Nicola. Funeral service Thursday January 18th, at St. Anthony in Menage Church, St. Anthony, near Helston, Cornwall at 11.00am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Lowestoft Fishermen's Widows and Orphans Fund C/o. Malcolm Jones & Metcalfe, 284 High St., Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 1AH. Tel. (01442) 864548. A Memorial Service will be held at Lowestoft at a future date, to be announced.

de ROBECK - Martin John Michael, 7th Baron de Robeck of County Kildare, Ireland, died on January 11th at home. Husband of Caroline and father of Gunilla, John and Melissa. Funeral today, Monday 15th January at St. David's Church Naas at 11.30. Family flowers only Donations if desired to St. David's Restoration Fund or R.N.L.I.

ELWELL - Ann Catherine O.B.E. on 12th January. Beloved wife of Charles J. L. Elwell, mother of Charles, Selina, Henry and Henrietta and grandmother of Charles, Emily, Catherine and Henrietta Dillon. Funeral private, Memorial Service to be announced.

FARDELL - Mary Muriel, peacefully on 12th January 1996, aged 86. Cherished wife of the late Jimmy Fardell, beloved mother of Jane, dearly loved step-mother of Marion and Mariola, and grandmother to her seven grandsons. Funeral at Kingswear Parish Church on Saturday 20th January at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Kingswear Parish Church P.C.C., c/o Stockman, 19 Holwell Rd, Brixham, Devon.

MARTIN - Arthur Sidney CBE died peacefully in Oxford after an illness, on January 10th. Husband to Joan, father to Stephen and Timothy and Grandfather to Maddie and David. Greatly missed. Private cremation followed by Service at Church of St. Peter, Alvescot on Thursday January 18th at 1.45pm, and afterwards at The Plough, Alvescot. Donations in memory, c/o E. Taylor & Son, Carterton, Oxon for the church of St. Peter, Alvescot or the Animal Health Trust Christmas Appeal.

NICHOLSON - Hubert, Man of Letters, Man of Life; Poet, Novelist and Journalist. Sadly but peacefully passed away January 11th 1996. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Tuesday 23rd January 1996 at 3 pm. All enquiries to Longhurst Undertakers, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom, tel: (01372) 723648.

OLIVER - On January 10th peacefully at St Cecilia Nursing Home Budleigh Salterton, Gwendoline (Ossie) Mary aged 98. Funeral Service at The Exeter & Devon Crematorium, Tuesday January 16th at 3.00pm.

PAGE-SMITH - On 11th January 1996, peacefully Richard Sydney, Aged 76 - Sadly missed by Leon, family and friends. Funeral Service on Thursday 18th January, 1.45 pm at The Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, Brighton. Donations if desired to The Sussex Beacon c/o Altree & Kent Ltd., 108 Church Road, Hove, tel: (01273) 821985.

PEMBERTON - The Reverend Desmond Pemberton, former President of Churches Together in England, and Superintendent of the Wesleyan Holiness Church, British Isles for 20 years, died in Birmingham on 10th January 1996, aged 68. Funeral Tuesday 23rd January 11 am, at the Wesleyan Holiness Church, Handsworth, Birmingham. Flowers to be sent to family home.

POWER - On 11 January at Oxford, Major John Pierce Robert, Royal Artillery (retired), aged 77, widower of Maureen Suzanne, father of Richard and Jane, father-in-law of Ruth and much loved grandfather. Funeral at Church of St. Nicholas, Corfe, Taunton at 2.30pm on 19th January. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX or Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, Artillery House, Old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich SE18 4DN.

PRESTON - Thomas Warwick - on 12th January 1996, peacefully at home, aged 94 years, late Chief Medical Officer, Prudential Assurance Co. Beloved father of John & Edward. Funeral service on Friday 19th January, 11.00 am at St. Philips Church, Nutley Lane, Reigate. Family flowers only, donations to R.N.L.I. care of Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill, RH1 6AZ.

STEIN - On 4th January 1996 at Warwick Park Nursing Home, Mary Stein (professionally known as Mary Williams) aged 90 widow of Leopold Stein. Cremation at 3.30pm on 22nd January at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Enquiries to (0171) 580 0044. Ref CB.

STIBBS - Geoffrey Harold suddenly at Portishead, Avon, on January 10th 1996, formerly of Rochester, Kent and of Summers Office Equipment. Funeral at Canford Crematorium, Bristol, on January 19th at 12 noon. Details and donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o P & D Connell Funeral Directors, 2 Cabotland, Portishead, Bristol BS20 9HW, tel: (01275) 849239.

WAY - John, beloved husband of Margaret, dearly loved father of Elizabeth, Patrick and Nicholas and much loved grandfather. Died peacefully at Warren Pearl House on January 7th 1996. Cremation (family only) on Friday January 19th in the morning. All very welcome to the service at St Alphege Church, Solihull at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Warren Pearl House, 911 Warwick Road, Solihull or Sunshine Homes or Woodlands Trust.

WILSON - Dermot Needham Furnival, M.C., on 10th January 1996 at Salisbury District Hospital, after a long illness, aged 71. Much loved husband of Renee, father of Fergus. Private family funeral. Donations in his memory to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Griffin House, 65 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 1HL. Thanksgiving for Dermot's life at a date to be announced.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TURNBULL - A memorial service for Ivor Sinclair Turnbull, Founder, Publisher and Editor of Antiques Trade Gazette, from 1971 to 1994, will be held on Tuesday 23rd January 1996 at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, at 11.30 am.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ELIOT - A Thanksgiving Service for Peter Charles Eliot, sometime Archdeacon of Worcester, will be held at Worcester Cathedral on Saturday January 27th at 12 noon. Train, Paddington 8.45 am - to Worcester Shrub Hill 11.15 am, will be met. Return Worcester Shrub Hill 3.56 pm - Paddington 6.18 pm. Refreshments after the Service.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

DUFF - Peter Edward, born 20/3/1939 died 15/1/1996. In my heart and in my head. Victor.

NOVELLO - Ivor: Remembered on his birthday.

BIRTHDAYS

PRISCILLA ANTHONY Happy Birthday. Without you life is useless. ISLY * MD. 01753 819055

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هكذا من الاصل

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SETON LLOYD

Professor Seton Lloyd, CBE, FBA, archaeologist, died on January 7 aged 93. He was born on May 30, 1902.



SETON LLOYD earned an international reputation as an archaeologist. Most of his work in the field took place in Iraq and in Turkey and is associated with many successful expeditions. He applied a natural artistic sensibility and draughtsman's skill to his archaeology, which was distinguished by these endowments. Industrious and methodical, he wrote more than a dozen books of which the best known was probably *Foundation in the Dust*, first published in 1947 and reissued in 1980.

Educated at Uppingham School, Seton Howard Frederick Lloyd had a natural bent for drawing which led him to study architecture. Qualifying as an architect in 1926, he joined the office of Sir Edwin Lutyens. After two years there he left to enter into a partnership which might well have led to a lifetime devoted to architecture.

Instead, however, within a year he was recruited by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The institute at that time was organising a series of major expeditions in the Middle East, inspired by the dominant personality of J. H. Breasted who, in turn, had captured the patronage of John D. Rockefeller.

Lloyd's first major achievement in Iraq was the rediscovery, in partnership with T. Jacobsen, of a long-forgotten aqueduct at Jerwan, whence in about 700 BC Sennacherib had conducted a canal which ran for a distance of some 20 miles from Bavian on the headwaters of the River Gomel to Nineveh.

Lloyd's training as an architect enabled him to appreciate and expound with a rare insight the technical achievements of the ancient Assyrian hydraulic engineers. His drawings and observations were embodied in an exemplary publication which appeared in 1935.

Thereafter Lloyd enhanced his archaeological reputation by his invaluable collaboration in work which his Chicago expeditions were then conducting in the Diyala Valley, north of Baghdad — principally by his excavation of the Shara Temple at Tell Agrab and the Abu Temple at Tell Asmar. This work was of cardinal importance for our understanding of Early Dynastic Babylonia, 3000-2300 BC, and the relation of it was incorporated in a volume entitled *Pre-Sargonid Temples in the Diyala Region* (1942), and in a second volume written in collaboration with Frankfort and Jacobsen under the title *The Gimilsin Temple and the Palace of the Rulers at Tell Asmar* (1940).

After the death of Breasted many of the American expeditions were either closed down or curtailed and Lloyd left Iraq in order to join John Garstang's expeditions to Mersin in southern Turkey, 1937-39. For the next ten years his services were devoted to Iraq as technical adviser to the Directorate General of Antiquities. During this time he was fully engaged in supervising the organisation of the Antiquities Department in Iraq and in training a new generation of Iraqis for the sole responsibility in administration. For these services alone he deserves considerable credit. But he also in this decade assisted, in partnership with his Iraqi colleagues, particularly with Fuad Safar, in several major excavations, notably at Eridu, the most important post-diluvian city in Babylonia.

These excavations were complementary to a smaller undertaking at Hassuna, where — once more in conjunction with Fuad Safar — he discovered a settlement which coincided with the beginnings of village life in Assyria. No less interesting were the department's excavations at Tell Uqair, not far from Babylon, where Lloyd's highly skilled field technique succeeded in salvaging painted murals from a temple which had been erected in about 3000 BC. Lloyd's own wide architectural interests appear from his excavation report on the early Islamic mosque at Wasit.

On the retirement of John Garstang, he became Director of the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara, Turkey, a post which he occupied with distinction from 1949 to 1961. He was appointed OBE in 1949, advanced to CBE in 1959 and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1955.

His work in Turkey led to further notable discoveries. Together with D. Storm Rice, he conducted a new survey of Harran and this led to the discovery by the latter of the memorial stelai of the mother of Nabonidus, last King of Babylon, a venerable old lady who lived to the age of 104 and was buried with the pomp and ceremony due to a priestess of the Harran Moon Temple. Lloyd also made fruitful soundings at the site of Sultantepe some miles to the north, where he exposed a large building of the Assyrian period, which revealed contemporary cuneiform tablets and fragments of ivories which indicated that the site would be of great promise for further excavations.

Lloyd's most important work in Turkey was, however, conducted at the western end of Asia Minor, in the ancient district of Arzawa, a vassal state and sometimes an enemy of the Hittites. Here he selected for excavation a site named Beyce Sultan, situated in the valley of the River Maeander, and discovered a series of Bronze Age palaces, intricate and spacious in ground-plan, no less elaborate than the Minoan palaces of Crete. Lloyd's premature conclusion — that one of these buildings might have been planned by a Cretan architect after the fall of Knossos — was not accepted and was not pressed by himself in the final account. It seems more likely that the Beyce palaces were native developments in accord with the architectural canons that had long prevailed in that country.

A discussion of the site, which was founded in prehistoric times, inevitably provides a debating ground for scholars in search of Luvians, Greek-speakers and even Achaeans. It was, therefore, disappointing that no documents were found to illuminate the record which had probably been written on wooden and waxed tablets and had long ago perished. There were forests in the countryside and it is thus not surprising that much evidence of timber construction was found.

From 1965 onwards Seton Lloyd was engaged in the excavation of a magnificent Urartian fortress named Kayalidere, which was situated not far from Mush in eastern Turkey, a township of great interest because its fortunes could be closely linked with those of its greater rival and powerful enemy, Assyria. It was a disappointment for archaeology that this work, so happily inaugurated, later had to be suspended.

Lloyd was in 1962 elected to the chair of Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. In his seven years in this post students were very fortunate to benefit from his wide experience.

After his retirement in 1969 Lloyd continued to write and to travel. He returned to Iraq and visited Iran. He and his wife Ulrica, whose maiden name was Hyde and who was known to everyone as Hydie, always provided a warm welcome to ex-students. Lloyd's memoirs, based on letters to his mother and to Hydie during their periods of separation, appeared in 1987 under the title of *The Interval*. A further book, *Ancient Turkey*, came out in 1989.

His wife, whom he had married in 1944, died in 1987. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

SIR MAXWELL HARPER GOW

Sir Maxwell Harper Gow, MBE, businessman, died on January 1 aged 77. He was born on June 13, 1918.



MAX HARPER GOW was well known as one of the outstanding Scottish men of business of the postwar era. Paradoxically, however, it was outside Scotland that most of the diversification and growth of his company — Christian Salvesen — was achieved.

The company had been founded by his maternal great-grandfather and was firmly established in the fields of shipping and whaling by the next two generations of the family; but it was not until after the end of the Second World War, when the young Harper Gow joined the business, that its direction started to change.

Whaling and shipping had been good, profitable fields but their future looked progressively uncertain and the time for diversification was at hand. With the support of a far-sighted chairman and a substantial accumulation of resources, Harper Gow pioneered this process. Starting with factory ships designed and equipped to catch and freeze fish at sea, he moved onto cold stores on land for the storage of fish and other perishable foodstuffs and from there into the freezing of vegetables in factories located at these cold stores.

A Rugby schoolboy and a Cambridge graduate, who became a major in the Commandos during the war, Leonard Maxwell Harper Gow got on well with all ranks and gave his trust to those he liked. He was appointed MBE in 1944.

He owed his inside track at Christian Salvesen to his mother (a Miss Salvesen before her marriage to his father) and there was always something of "the young master" about him. Sometimes this led him to acquire, or invest in, companies which had little synergy with his own firm's mainstream activities. But few of these investments — whether in housebuilding, brickmaking or drilling for offshore oil — failed to make an adequate return.

In addition to his responsibilities with Christian Salvesen, of which he was chairman from 1964 to 1981 and vice-chairman from 1981 to 1987, Harper Gow took on a number of outside non-executive directorships. He was on the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland for 22 years and was a director of Radio Forth from the moment of its foundation in 1973 until just six years ago. He was also an originator and leader of the Unquoted Companies Group, a small committee formed during the 1970s by some of the non-public UK companies which did useful work in preaching to Whitehall the significance to the economy of private companies. The group commissioned research into the reform of trade union law because it saw such reform as the precondition for restoring industrial health to the United Kingdom. Harper Gow was knighted on the nomination of Margaret Thatcher in 1985.

In his younger days he had been a first-class shot and was the enthusiastic owner of a winning steeplechaser. Latterly he derived great pleasure from his hill farm in the Ettrick Forest which he took pride in showing to his band of devoted friends.

He is survived by his wife Lillian, a daughter and two sons.

TEENY DUCHAMP

Teeny Duchamp, widow of Marcel Duchamp, died in Villiers-sous-Grez, France, on December 20 aged 89. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1906.

THROUGH her two marriages, the first to Pierre Matisse, a gallery owner and son of Henri Matisse, and the second to the artist Marcel Duchamp, Teeny Duchamp came into contact with the principal developments in modern art. Through her first husband she was familiar with Matisse and the Fauves. With Duchamp she came to understand Dada and Surrealism.

As a schoolgirl in Cincinnati, Alexina (Teeny) Sattler felt the influence of art. Her father, a physician, was a cultured man; her mother, who had been brought up in Florence, was well acquainted with the European art world and herself an accomplished violinist. Teeny was sent to Europe to complete her education at a school in Neuilly-sur-Seine, and through art classes at La Grande Chaumière. The sculptor Brancusi admired her work, and the two formed a lifelong friendship.

In 1929 she married Pierre Matisse after a passionate Parisian courtship. They moved to New York where he opened an art gallery. Working closely with him, she helped to introduce Henri Matisse's work to the American art world.

In 1934 they held the first American exhibitions of Matisse's work and in 1936 showed his studies for *Dance*. Further important Matisse exhibitions followed. At their country home, Teeny Matisse assembled round her dining table an array of artists fresh from Europe. But she gradually grew to feel cramped in her relationship with Pierre Matisse, and the marriage was dissolved.

She had been slightly acquainted with Marcel Duchamp for some time before Max Ernst and Dorothea Tanning brought them together over a game of chess in 1952. Her marriage to him two years later, when she was 48 and he 67, was a very happy one.

Duchamp had already achieved almost legendary status by the time of their wedding. His present to his new wife was the third in a trilogy of erotic sculptures



entitled *Wedge of Chastity*. As the recipient of the two interlocking pieces of plaster which made up this sculpture, she was intended to become part of the very fabric of Duchamp's work.

In Duchamp's 1957 *Waistcoat*, the five buttons each bear her name and in 1964 when replicas of Duchamp's "ready made" *With Hidden Noise* — two squares of brass with a ball of twine between them within which something to which Duchamp was not privy was hidden — were created it was Teeny who put the secret object inside the twine. When in 1963 a series of limited editions of Duchamp's 1935 *Rotoreliefs* (optical discs) were recreated, she helped her husband to assemble them.

Art aside, they shared many interests, the most important being chess (although, once Duchamp had taught her to play, they made a pact never to pit their wits against each other).

In 1968 she and Duchamp collaborated with the composer John Cage in *Reunion*, a legendary but long-winded and pretentious chess game piece staged at the Ryerson Polytechnic High School, Toronto. A special chess board was built to include a system of photo-electric cells that registered the chess moves with a series of different sounds. An outraged audience vented its opinion by voting with its feet — the auditorium was empty long before the piece was over.

Later that year Duchamp died and four years later Teeny moved back to France to Villiers-sous-Grez. Her last visit to England was as guest of honour, with John Cage, at the Tate Gallery symposium *Art and Chess* in 1991. She was also the guest of honour at the qualifying chess matches held in Brussels later that year where in a match between Nigel Short, the English chess champion, and Gelfaud whom he beat, the receptacle from which each contestant drew the colour he was to play was a replica of Duchamp's *Urinal*.

After her death her ashes were interred beside his in a tomb which bore Duchamp's chosen inscription: "Besides, it's always the others who die."

Teeny Duchamp is survived by three children from her first marriage. Her daughter and one of her two sons are artists.

JOYCE BALDWIN CAINE

Joyce Baldwin Caine, theological educator and writer, died on December 30 aged 74. She was born on August 1, 1921.



JOYCE BALDWIN CAINE was one of the leading Evangelical women scholars of her day. Although she would have been a remarkable woman in any context, what was so exceptional about Joyce Caine was her determination to develop those gifts in herself which the Church of England did not traditionally value in women. She championed the cause of women's ministry by example as well as by her influential writing and teaching.

Joyce Baldwin, as she was before marriage, began her professional career in Lancashire as a teacher of modern languages and religious education, but as a student she was attracted to missionary work in China. In 1947 she was accepted for training by the China Inland Mission, and chose to combine this with studying for the London Diploma in Theology. It was a move which surprised her fellow CIM students, partly because the combined courses were a heavy burden, but chiefly because academic training was considered unnecessary for women missionaries. This disregard for convention was to prove typical of her.

She travelled to China in 1949. Only four weeks after she joined the CIM language school in Chongqing, the People's Liberation Army took control. Communist restrictions eventually forced CIM to withdraw its missionaries and so Joyce Baldwin left China in 1951. Her initial seven-year stint of service had been dramatically curtailed and she returned home weakened by dysentery. She never enjoyed robust health again.

In 1956, after discovering that her damaged health prevented further work for CIM in Malaya, she took up a lecturing post at Dalton House in Bristol, where women trained to be missionaries or Anglican parish workers. The move was decisive for her future career.

Joyce Baldwin taught Old Testament, Philosophy and Ethics to prepare women for the London Diploma in Theology and London University's external Bachelor of Divinity degree. While teaching full-time, she obtained her own divinity degree and subsequently became Vice-Principal and later Principal of Dalton House. In 1964, at a time when women biblical scholars were a rare breed, especially in the Evangelical fold, Baldwin published her first paper in an academic journal. Two years later she began work on the first of six commentaries on books of the Old Testament.

In 1972 Dalton House merged with two men's colleges in Bristol to form Trinity College. One third of the students in this new institution were women, and four women tutors from Dalton House comprised a third of the staff. Joyce Baldwin became Dean of Women, a position which theoretically gave her full responsibility for women students. In practice, however, she discovered that her decisions could be countermanded by male colleagues, a situation symptomatic of the marginalised status of women in the Church at large.

Baldwin addressed the issues of women's ministry in the Church of England in a booklet published in 1973. Among other things, she argued from careful exegesis that biblical passages often thought to exclude women from ministry actually implied no such thing. She was a member of the Movement for the Ordination of Women and arranged two of its Bristol conferences. She had seen women's abilities given freedom to develop in missionary work overseas and in secular teaching, and regarded the situation in the Church as not only unscriptural but also illogical and unjust. She made her views known firmly but always without bitterness and often with gentle humour.

In 1981 the Principal of Trinity College, the Rev Alec Motyer, retired and the Rev Dr George Carey (now the Archbishop of Canterbury) was appointed to replace him, but could not take up the post until 1982. Although on the brink of retirement, Joyce Baldwin was persuaded to stay on as Principal for the intervening year. She held the post alongside that of Dean of Women.

The day before her retirement in 1982 she received a telephone call from a man she had known as a teenager but had not seen for 42 years. She and Jack Caine arranged to meet and the following year they were married. Baldwin was writing her commentary on the Book of Esther at the time, and remarked that the extraordinary coincidences in that biblical book became entirely credible in the light of events in her own life.

The freedom of retirement and the support of her husband released a fresh spate of writing. In 1987 she was among the first women to be ordained to the diaconate of the Church of England. However, in 1994, when ordination to the priesthood became open to women, she did not go forward, feeling that her calling had already been fulfilled.

She is survived by her husband.

Church appointments

Appointments

The Rev Jackie Hughes, Assistant Curate (NS), to be course tutor (NS), West Midlands Ministerial Training Course, the Queen's College, Birmingham.

The Rev Robert Leach, Assistant Curate, St Lawrence, Towcester (Peterborough), to be Priest in Charge of St Laurence, Cowley (London).

The Rev Trevor Mapstone, Assistant Curate, St Thomas Lancaster (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Trinity St Michael, Harrow (London).

The Rev Sheila Nunney, Curate, Swaffham, Norwich, to be Chaplain's Assistant in the Norfolk and Norwich, West Norwich and Colman Hospitals (Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare NHS Trust) (Norwich).

The Rev Roderick Thorp, Vicar in the Exe Valley Team, to be Priest in Charge of Dolton, Iddesleigh with Dowland and Monkokehampton (Exeter).

The Rev Trevor Rhodes, Canon, Koforidua and Vicar of Danby with Castleton, to be Priest in Charge, the parish of the Good Shepherd, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland (Durham).

The Rev Richard Spencer has the Bishop's permission to officiate in the diocese of Birmingham.

The Rev Ruth Waring, Curate, Tavistock and Gulworthy, to be Vicar in the Axminster Team (Exeter).

Canon John Wesson, Rector, St Martin-in-the-Bull-Ring, Birmingham, to be Director of CME & POT Training (Lichfield).

The Rev Anthony Whalley, Rector, Newton Longville, Stoke Hammond and Whaddon, to be Rector, Winslow with Great Horwood and Addington (Oxford).

The Rev John White, Vicar of Chapelthorpe, to be also Rural Dean of Chevet (Wakefield).

Canon G T Willett, Rector of Markfield and Rural Dean of Sparkenhoe East Deanery, to be Priest in Charge of Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton (Leicester).

The Rev Frederick Williams, Vicar of Rillington w Scampston, Wintringham and Thorpe Bassett, is to continue as Rural Dean of Buckrose for a further period of five years (York).

The Rev Paul Wilson, Vicar Buckfastleigh with Dean Prior (Exeter), to be Priest in Charge of Stockland, Dalwood, Kilmington and Shute (Exeter).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev John V Andrews, Rector, Seaton Ross Group of Parishes, to retire at the end of October 1996 (York).

The Rev David Baker, Vicar, Baldersby with Dalton, Dishforth and Skipton on Swale, to retire on July 1, 1996 (York).

The Rev John S Barnes, Vicar, bentley, to retire on January 31, 1996 (Lichfield).

The Rev Keith Ellwood, Priest-in-Charge, Colwaltham (Chichester): retired on December 31, 1995.

Canon David Fricker, Rector, Brightling, Dallington, Mountfield and Netherfield, and Rural Dean of Dallington (Chichester), retired as Rural Dean on December 31, 1995.

The Rev Charles Kerr, Vicar, St Mark, Anlaby Common, resigned December 31, 1995 (York).

Canon Alan Treherne, Team Rector, St Stephen, Gateacre, to retire on April 7, 1996 (Liverpool).

The Rev Thomas Willis, Vicar, Bridlington Holy Trinity and Sewerby with Marton (York) to retire on October 31, 1996.

Canon John Wilson, Rector, Holy Trinity, Horfield (Bristol) to retire on June 15, 1996.

The Rev Richard Spencer, Christian Aid Area Secretary and World Development Officer, has resigned with effect from November 30, 1995 (Birmingham).

NEW SONGS OF PURCELL. HIS INFINITE VARIETY.

Dr Arthur Somervell has done a very good thing in editing and publishing as one of Messrs. Novello's handy series of song albums, "Seventeen Songs by Purcell". None of these is a song which everybody knows, and some of them are songs which nobody knows, because they have never been published.

The chief good of Dr. Somervell's volume is that it puts into the hands of every singer who has the wish to sing Purcell some of the most delightful specimens of his genius, and offers them in a practicable form, which is a very different thing from the library edition of the Purcell Society. It is a reproach to English music lovers that that society, founded 50 years ago, has not yet been able to complete its long-delayed complete edition solely for lack of funds to print and publish.

Perhaps the Purcell Society itself might have avoided reproach if it had taken a less academic view of its responsibilities and had concentrated not only on the production of a library edition, but had adopted a policy akin to that of Dr. Fellowes's "English Madrigal School" and the Carnegie Trust's "Tudor Music", both of which issue cheap performing editions concurrently with the collective one.

We believe, in fact, that the musical public to-day needs its Purcell far more than the Purcell Society knows, not for the shelves of a reference library, but to play and sing. Dr. Somervell's position in the Board of Education puts him in touch with the need, and it is certain that anyone who plays or sings the 17 songs in this volume will have an appetite whetted for the other 93 in the forthcoming volume of the Purcell Society's edition.

It must not be thought because of Dr. Somervell's position that this volume is one of songs for school-children. There are just one or two of the number which might be useful in the higher school classes, but in the main they are very grown-up songs indeed. Purcell himself was a singer of a high order. It is reported that he sang the very elaborate alto (counter-tenor) songs in the first performance of his own "Ode on Saint Cecilia's Day" with "incredible graces", and many of these songs, notably "Ah! what pains" (now published for the first time), demand from the singer that power of "gracing" which was characteristic of English song in the 17th century and became a lost art when the Italian *coloratura* supplanted it in the 18th century.

The revival of these songs must mean the revival of Purcell's own style of singing, of which the average singing teacher and professional singer have remained in lamentable ignorance for about two centuries.

But even singers whose graces are "incredible" in a sense very different from that in which the word was applied to Purcell's own performance may find something they can sing, and will be the better for singing, in the exquisitely moulded but quite straightforward melodies of "Olinda". "If music be the food of love" (not Shakespeare, but a paraphrase on his text), "On the brow of Richmond Hill" and "I fain would be free" (another of those now first published).

ON THIS DAY

January 15, 1927

The recent Purcell celebrations might seem to suggest that this great English composer did not receive his due in earlier times, but there have always been those who were anxious that his reputation should grow and his works become more widely known.

NEWS

New commandments for schools

■ Schools must adopt a modern ten commandments to give children a moral grounding and teach them the difference between right and wrong, the Government's chief curriculum adviser will say today.

The rules should be agreed nationally to underpin everything taught in schools, Dr Nick Tate will tell a conference in London. Dr Tate sees schools filling a void left by the diminishing authority of the Church Page 1

Drugged monk 'killed British tourist'

■ A Buddhist monk murdered the missing British lawyer Johanne Masheder during a robbery, Thai police said. The monk, a convicted rapist, is said to have confessed to killing Miss Masheder, 23, while high on drugs. Her body was found near a Buddhist temple west of Bangkok Pages 1, 3

Drivers' rush

A stampede of learner drivers desperate to take their tests before the summer has been triggered by the announcement that they will have to sit a written examination from July 1 Page 1

Lottery boost

Camelot is to introduce special weekly "Superdraws" in the next six months, with prizes boosted by National Lottery reserve funds Page 1

Union warning

Ken Livingstone predicted a resurgence of trade union power under a future Labour Government as he undermined efforts by Tony Blair to rebut Tory criticism of his big idea of a "stakeholder economy" Pages 2, 16, 17

Scargill party

Arthur Scargill accused Tony Blair of embracing the capitalist "devil" as he announced that he would be resigning from the Labour Party in a few days to carry on the class war under the banner of his breakaway party Page 2

Disappearing dog

A champion pedigree dog worth £30,000 has vanished shortly before it was due to compete for a top prize at Crufts Page 3

Race comes alive

The Republican presidential race spluttered into life with a remarkably catty televised debate between the candidates Page 8

Third man lucky

Rory McCarthy is lucky that Richard Branson chose him to be the third crewman on the *Virgin Global Challenger's* balloon trip around the world because he was starting to run out of ways to spice up his life or scare himself witless Page 4

Bush's relief

Former President Bush admits that he was immensely relieved that President Saddam Hussein did not withdraw his troops voluntarily from Kuwait Page 11

Mass search

They came in droves and from all walks of life as 10,000 volunteers turned up for a mass search in the hope of finding clues to the disappearance of the missing teenager Louise Smith Page 5

Blow for tourism

South African research has come down in favour of developing the ancient sand dunes of St Lucia, on Natal's north coast, for ecotourism Page 9

Granada's bid

Granada's bid for the Forte hotel empire has joined the few financial battles to dominate City wine bar chatter Pages 6, 17, 40

Dini's dilemma

Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister brought in a year ago to save Italy from chaos, faces an uncertain future after his latest resignation Page 10

10,000 head for Indian wedding

■ The Hinduja family, the world's richest Indians and the sixth richest Britons, have tied up Bombay for a wedding. They have invited 10,000 guests so that there is not a vacant hotel room in the city. The reception will cater for 6,000 and the invitation comes with a 48-page book explaining the "essence of Vedic marriage for success and happiness" Page 9



ANDRÉ CAMARA

Jonathan Steers, left, and Jamie Levy sound *Reveille* in London to launch the Royal British Legion's 75th anniversary. Page 6

BUSINESS

Aircraft order: British Airways has invited tenders from aircraft manufacturers to supply up to 60 new regional jet aircraft Page 40

Profit-sharing: British Gas is pressing for a profit-share clause in the next price cap on TransCo, its core subsidiary, which runs the gas pipeline system Page 40

Plea for justice: Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, called on those involved in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal to work together to achieve a just settlement Page 40

War rages on: The war of words continued between Sir Rocco Forte and Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, as Granada's bid for the hotel group rumbles to its conclusion next week Page 40

FEATURES

Royal bond: The deep bond between the Queen and her sister is examined in today's instalment of *Elizabeth* Pages 12, 13

Pure terror: "I would simply lie in bed waiting for it to happen, screwing up my eyes as tight as possible." Melvyn Bragg on his "out of body experiences" Page 15

MIND AND MATTER

Born to question: Birth order may be more important than genes or class in determining how revolutionary a child will grow up to be, Matt Ridley reports Page 14

Great dates: Were the bluestones of Stonehenge dragged to Salisbury Plain by teams of men, or carried there by glaciers? Nigel Hawkes reports Page 14

Jazzman speaks: The South African jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela is arriving in London for a Festival Hall concert and he is bringing his politics with him Page 33

State of verse: Poetry needs all the support it can get. Maybe tonight's T.S. Eliot Prize can make some difference Page 32

London theatre: Betjeman's poetry becomes a musical revue, while Jean Rhys's *Voyage in the Dark* is adapted for the stage Page 32

Second thoughts: Birtwistle's *Panic* is deemed a musical success after a repeat performance by John Harle with the LPO Page 32

LOTTERY NUMBERS

21, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 48. Bonus: 25

Football: Newcastle United moved nine points ahead of Manchester United in the FA Premiership when they beat Coventry City 1-0 at Highfield Road Page 21

Cricket: England's inadequate bowling resources were shown up as South Africa won by seven wickets in Pretoria to take a 3-1 lead in the one-day series Page 23

Rugby union: Delegates attacked the Rugby Football Union at a special general meeting, causing a crisis of leadership for the RFU, with the assembly breaking up in chaos Page 22

Rugby league: St Helens sparkled in the Regal Trophy final, but it was Wigan who came away with the spoils Page 28

Boxing: Henry Wharton, of York, stayed on course for a second attempt at securing the world super-middleweight title Page 27

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **LOVE CLASSIC**
***Les Enfants du Paradis*, the great French film, comes to the stage, but can its magic translate?**

■ **OWN GOALS**
Interactive Team Football: check on your players

Those who burnt [Bosnia's national library in Sarajevo] accomplished one important and uncivilised goal: they erased the written record of half a millennium of cosmopolitan coexistence.
— The Washington Post

The Chinese authorities are ultimately the most serious obstacle to smooth relations [with America]. By spurning Washington's repeated gestures of goodwill, Peking has begun to damage its own interests
— The New York Times

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Peter Flannery's drama cycle is no less than a history of Britain from the 1960s as reflected in the lives of four friends from the North East (*Our Friends in the North*, BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** *The Bare Necessities* was skilfully, busily directed, and it certainly had shock value Page 39

Tokyo swords

Japanese voters at long last have a choice between two sharply different political philosophies. The battle between Ryutaro Hashimoto, the new Prime Minister, and his opponent Ichiro Ozawa is set to dominate public life Page 17

An IRA offer

If London can satisfy itself that the arrangements for verification are watertight, arms will be taken out of commission. Who destroys them and how is secondary Page 17

Dress for dinner

A worldwide shortage of olive oil would once have mattered as little to our cooks and diners as a dearth of asafoetida, biltong or cloudberries. But nothing has changed so much in recent times, not even the Labour Party, as have the customs in our kitchens Page 17

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I wish to make it clear, in the face of the court, that I have never suggested that Mr Sugar, whom I hold in the highest esteem, is an old fart Page 16

MATTHEW PARRIS

A familiar figure in the central lobby in the late 1970s was a gentleman who would wait for hours, hoping for an appointment. He had written a book making proposals for the organisation of the world and wished to discuss it with Mrs Thatcher Page 16

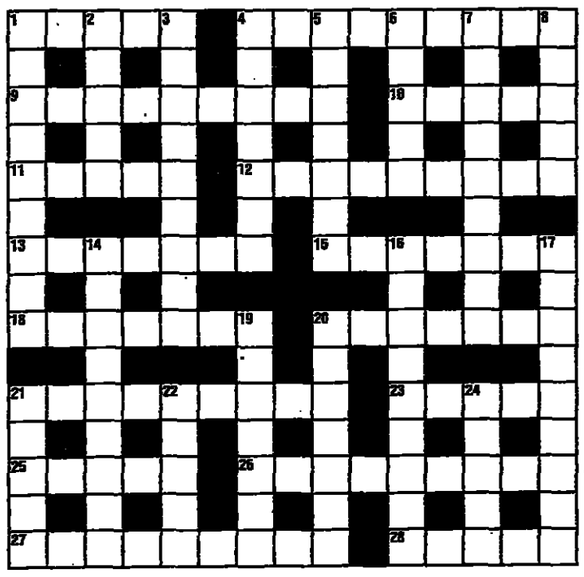
PETER RIDDELL

Societies should not be divided into a prosperous top part and an unskilled, undereducated and vulnerable bottom part Page 16

Professor Seton Lloyd, archaeologist; **Sir Maxwell Harper Gow**, businessman; **Joyce Balwin Caine**, theological writer Page 19

Appointment of BBC chief; the ageing process Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,064



ACROSS

1 Purchase requiring pound always (5).
4 Perfectly happy to study in temporary accommodation (9).
9 Occasions incessant exchange of letters (9).
10 Bird with back an unnaturally reddish colour (5).
11 Extreme, so to speak (5).
12 Review proves ten were not economical (9).
13 Cost to be met out of cash, as stated (7).
15 Inclined to see tournament action (7).
18 Look for no return from American people (7).
20 Union caught over an apparently sure thing (7).
21 He covers up, once discovered in clear violation (9).
23 A man collecting money for wood (5).
25 Underworld boss was an animated character (5).
26 Women who are well used to low scores (9).
27 Smooth white material, the result of a laboratory bloomer (9).
28 Direction prudish person gives youngster (5).

DOWN

1 Lie about, decidedly laid-back (9).
2 Call on half a dozen to take their seats (5).
3 Change the positioning back, given latitude (9).
4 Go riding around on wind system (7).
5 An uplifting fragrance now in production (7).
6 Spirit needed as some meet hostility (5).
7 Strange Argentine fruit (9).
8 Negotiated, having put one's cards on the table (5).
14 This has little connection with the mainland (9).
16 Guides settle with foreign money (9).
17 Raging, in a frenzy about the association (9).
19 Petition — very proper (7).
20 Official organiser of stiff examinations (7).
21 Take care of top artist's source of oil (5).
22 Overdeveloped a city in Portugal (5).
24 River god of icy regions (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,063 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.00 am — Sun sets: 4.26 pm

Moon sets 12.00 pm — Moon rises 2.04 am

New Moon January 20

London 4.20 pm to 7.59 am
Bristol 4.30 pm to 8.09 am
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 8.34 am
Manchester 4.19 pm to 8.17 am
Penzance 4.47 pm to 8.15 am

THE TIMES
ABERLOUR
CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP
1996 QUALIFYING PUZZLE
THURSDAY JANUARY 18
Special new Pairs category
This year you may enter with a partner in a new pairs competition which will run alongside the existing singles championship.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** southwest England will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain, while the rest of England will be generally dry, with varying amounts of cloud. Eastern England will see the best of any bright or sunny spells after early mist and fog clears.
Wales will be rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle.
Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with rain generally in the west. Sunny spells in eastern Scotland.

☐ **London, SE, E, Cent N England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** mist and fog clearing, then dry with sunny spells. Wind gentle southeasterly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central S, NW England, W Midlands, Lakes:** cloudy with rain dying out, bright spells developing later. Wind gentle southeasterly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Channel Is, SW England, Wales:** cloudy with some light rain. Wind moderate southeasterly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **IoM, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind moderate southerly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy, some bright or sunny spells. Wind moderate south to southeast. Mild. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** cloudy with light rain in northwest, dry with sunny spells elsewhere.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F		Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	8	46	du	Lerwick	-	-	8	46	du
Anglesey	-	0.09	11	52	r	Leuchars	-	0.03	9	48	r
Aspatria	0.1	-	10	50	c	Littlehmptn	4.7	-	11	52	b
Aviemore	-	0.01	11	52	c	Liverpool	X				
Belfast	-	0.34	10	50	r	London	6.0	-	13	55	s
Birmingham	-	-	10	50	b	Lowestoft	5.1	-	9	48	s
Bognor R	4.5	-	11	52	s	Manchester	-	-	11	52	c
Bournem'th	X	0.01	11	52	b	Margate	X				
Bristol	0.3	-	12	54	c	Minehead	-	0.09	10	50	c
Buxton	-	-	8	46	c	Morecambe	-	0.03	11	52	du
Cardiff	-	0.17	9	48	r	Newcastle	-	-	9	48	c
Clacton	X					Newquay	-	0.67	10	50	sh
Cleethorpes	X					Norwich	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	10	50	r	Nottingham	X				
Cromer	X	-	11	52	s	Oxford	-	-	11	52	c
Doncaster	X					Penzance	-	0.60	11	52	gs
Dumbar	X					Plymouth	X				
Eastbourne	6.8		11	52	s	Poole	0.8	-	11	52	c
Edinburgh	0.1	-	11	52	du	Prestatyn	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.17	8	46	r	Ross-o-wye	-	-	11	52	c
Exmouth	-	0.31	10	50	r	Sandown	0.5	-	10	50	b
Falmouth	-	0.39	11	52	c	Saurtn End	-	0.01	10	50	du
Fishguard	-	0.22	9	48	r	Scarboro'	-	-	7	45	du
Folkestone	X					Shanklin	1.0	-	11	52	b
Glasgow	-	0.09	10	50	r	Shrewsbury	-	-	11	52	c
Guernsey	-	0.05	11	52	sh	Southend	4.4	-	11	52	b
Hastings	6.1	-	11	52	s	Southport	0.2	0.08	10	50	b
Hayling I.	2.7	-	11	52	s	Southsea	0.3	-	11	52	c
Herne Bay	6.5	-	12	54	s	Stornoway	-	0.10	11	52	r
Hove	3.5	-	11	52	b	Swanage	0.6	-	11	52	c
Hunstanton	6.0	-	11	52	s	Teignmouth	-	0.33	11	52	sh
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	-	0.55	10	50	r
Isle of Man	X					Torquay	-	0.39	11	52	c
Jersey	-	0.06	10	50	r	Tynemouth	-	-	9	48	b
Knloss	-	-	11	52	b	Ventnor	1.2	-	10	50	b
Leeds	-	0.02	9	48	c	Weymouth	-	0.08	10	50	r

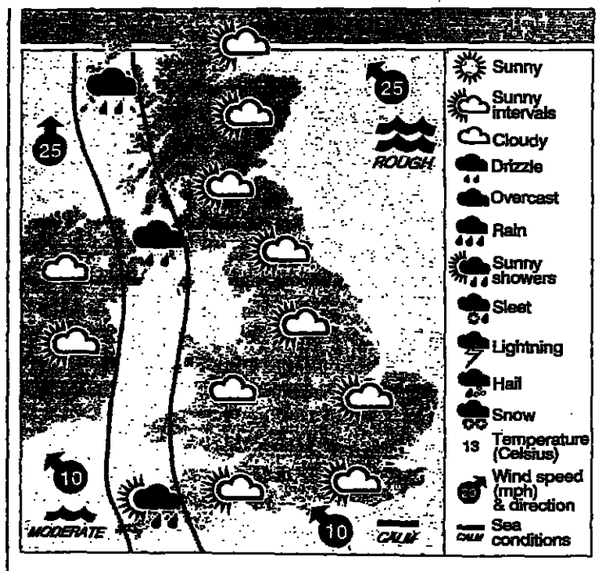
Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

ABROAD

Alassio	16	61	s	C'hagen	0	32	fg	Malaga	15	59	f
Alicante	17	63	s	Dublin	9	48	c	Malta	17	63	r
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	c	Malla'me	25	77	s
Algiers	13	55	c	Faro	12	54	r	Mexico C	14	57	s
Amst'dm	8	46	s	Florence	15	59	s	Miami	13	55	s
Athens	10	50	c	Frankfurt	2	36	c	Milan	12	54	f
B Aires	24	75	f	Funchal	18	61	f	Montreal	-5	23	x
Bahrain	15	59	s	Geneva	5	41	fg	Moscow	-7	19	x
Bangkok	31	88	s	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Munich	-1	30	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Helsinki	0	32	d	N Delhi	19	66	f
Barcelona	13	55	c	Hong K	23	73	s	N York	2	36	s
Beirut	15	59	s	Innsbruck	8	46	c	Nairobi	X		
Belgrade	5	41	f	Istanbul	6	43	d	Naples	16	61	s
Berlin	0	32	c	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	14	57	f
Bermuda	19	66	r	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	1	34	d
Bizmir	16	61	c	Karachi	21	70	f	Paris	12	54	s
Biarritz	12	54	c	L Angels	18	64	s	Peking	2	36	f
Brussels	10	50	s	L Palmas	20	68	f	Perth	24	75	s
Budapest	3	37	f	Le Tquet	12	54	s	Prague	3	37	s
Cairo	20	68	s	Lisbon	13	55	s	Reykjavik	4	39	s
Cape Tn	27	81	s	Locarno	10	50	s	Rhodes	16	61	s
Ch'church	20	68	c	Luxembg	1	34	fg	Rio de J	31	88	s
Chicago	4	39	s	Lyon	23	73	s	Riyadh	15	59	s
Cologne	4	39	s	Madrid	8	46	f	Rome	14	57	c
Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	17	63	f	S Fr'isco	9	48	s

S Paulo	30	86	c	Salzburg	-1	30	c	Santiago	29	84	s
Seoul	5	41	c	Sing'por	30	86	f	St'kholm	1	34	d
Strasb'rg	1	34	c	Sydney	24	75	f	Tangier	17	63	f
Tel Aviv	17	63	s	Tenerife	19	66	d	Tokyo	14	57	s
Toronto	-1	30	sn	Tunis	16	61	f	Valencia	13	55	s
Vanc'ver	8	46	r	Venice	10	50	f	Vienna	3	37	s
Warsaw	3	37	s	Wash'ton	3	37	s	Wel'ngton	23	73	x
Zurich	2	36	c								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available





HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:46	6.2	8:37	6.2	Leith	9:04	4.7	9:32	4.7
Aberdeen	7:59	3.6	8:24	3.7	Liverpool	5:32	7.8	6:01	7.9
Avonmouth	0:32	10.7	1:27	10.7	Lowestoft	3:22	2.3	4:24	2.1
Belfast	5:26	3.0	6:00	3.2	Margate	5:02	4.2	6:44	4.1
Cardiff	0:34	9.7	1:31	9.8	Milford Haven	0:10	6.5	12:45	6.8
Devonport	11:58	4.6			Newquay	11:57	5.4		
Dover	5:03	5.7	5:51	6.5	Oban			12:09	3.2
Dublin (N Wall)	6:12	3.5	6:35	3.6	Penzance	11:07	4.8	11:56	4.5
Falmouth	11:43	4.3			Portland	0:08	1.4	12:28	1.4
Greenock	6:49	2.9	6:57	3.1	Portsmouth	5:31	4.2	6:00	3.9
Harwich	5:42	3.4	6:29	3.4	Shoreham	5:12	5.2	5:46	5.0
Holyhead	4:46	4.6	5:10	4.7	Southampton	4:57	4.0	5:26	3.8
Hull (Albert D)			12:50	6.2	Swansea	0:17	7.5	12:50	7.6
Ilfracombe			12:27	7.5	Tees	10:27	4.3	10:53	4.4
King's Lynn	0:30	5.4	1:19	5.2	Walton-on-Naze	5:43	3.6	6:28	3.5

Yesterday: Highest day temp: central London 13C (55F); lowest day max: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Machrihanish, Strathclyde, 1.15in; highest sunshine: Herne Bay, Kent, 6.5hr.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.
For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.

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